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20 missing: world's largest supertanker hit

Iraqi jets set 5 ships ablaze

MANAMA, May 14, (AP): The world's largest supertanker was blazing out of control and four other ships were on fire, one of them sinking, after an Iraqi air raid today on Iran's major oil terminal in the Strait of Hormuz, shipping executives said.

At least 20 crew members were missing after the attacks, according to various sources, including the shipping executives, who said initial reports had indicated all crew abandoned the blazing vessels to safety.

Motherships

A large number of Iranian salvage tugboats were reported battling fierce flames aboard the Liberian-flag, 564,739-ton Seawise Giant, the world's biggest ship, from which oil was leaking. The executives, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said they received the information from ships in the vicinity.

The ships were attacked at 1.25 pm (0925 GMT) three or four miles southwest of Larak.

The executives said that radio

communications from the area have shown that the Seawise Giant had a crew of 50, and not 36 as had been originally reported. They said that the figure 36 was given when the number was rescued and now it appeared the remaining 14 were missing.

Radio communications also showed that two crew members of the 457,841-ton Burmah Endeavour, a British-flag vessel that also ranks among the world's five largest vessels, were missing. The Burmah Endeavour was however the least damaged, the sources said. Both the Seawise Giant and the Burmah Endeavour are used as "motherships" or oil storage depots by Iran.

Damage

There were no reports of injuries among the crew of other vessels at least as yet, said one of the sources.

But they said the Spanish-flag 235,000-ton Barcelona, which was taking on cargo from the Seawise Giant, was sinking as a result of the attack. And a short while later, the Spanish national news agency EFE said four Spanish crewmen were missing.

while 26 others were rescued. It was quoting the London-based Lloyd's shipping intelligence unit for its report, EFE said.

The other two stricken vessels were the 231,712-ton Iranian tanker Khark and the 152,004-ton Cypriot ship Argosy, both shuttle tankers. The sources said these were still afloat, but damage was not too severe.

The Iraqi News Agency said "large numbers" of jets took part in the rare long-range raid and all returned safely to base. At least two jets attacked the Seawise Giant in which bombs were used.

Warning

The salvage operation was basically concentrating on trying to save the Seawise Giant, one of the informants said.

The damage vessels at Larak sustained was not unusual. In two previous raids last year, Iraqi planes also damaged as many as five ships in each attack.

Meanwhile, the shipping sources said an Iranian jet fighter was overheard by radio monitors warning an unidentified US Navy warship to stay away from the area. A US source, also speaking on

condition of anonymity, said an Iranian F-4 fighter-bomber was heard asking its base for permission to attack a ship, which was not identified. There were no US warships in the immediate area at the time, the sources said.

Rescue boats were scouring the water round the Seawise Giant for survivors, the sources said.

Claims

Iraq's last confirmed raid on Larak was on Dec 22. Its warplanes regularly attacked ships further north in the Gulf to try to destroy Tebran's oil export lifeline.

The raid, 500 miles from Iraq, followed nine Iraqi claims in the past two weeks of attacks on ships off the Iranian coast.

Shipping sources said earlier today that two Exocet missiles fired by Iraqi jets hit the Iranian munitions ship Iran Nahad on Thursday. Lloyd's intelligence said 11 crewmen were wounded.

Larak and nearby Hormuz island in the entrance to the Gulf are the southern end of Iran's shuttle operation for oil and refined products.



A para-military soldier taking aim at Sikh extremists entrenched in the Golden Temple.

Indian troops seize part of Golden Temple

AMRITSAR, India, May 14, (Reuters): Indian paramilitary troops and commandos stormed into the Sikh-held Golden Temple complex yesterday, seizing two buildings and setting up a clear line of fire on separatists barricaded deeper inside, police reported.

They said the security forces broke in without firing a shot.

The separatists, demanding an independent Sikh state, were said to have abandoned the buildings and retreated to the heart of the huge temple complex, where some of the heaviest fighting took place during an Indian Army assault in 1984.

Sikh gunmen holding out have said they prefer death or suicide to surrender.

Reinforced

Paramilitary police and elite "Black Cat" commandos recaptured the Manji Sahib building and the temple kitchen which had been serving food to 100 militants throughout the siege in which at least 25 people have been killed in gunbattles.

A news agency report said earlier that the forces smashed down fortifications, but police could not confirm this. Before the action, New Delhi had rushed about 300 commando reinforcements to the temple in Amritsar in the northern state of Punjab, where the Sikh militants want to set up their separate state.

They joined 200 commandos

helping 3,000 paramilitary police who have besieged the white marble shrine since Monday.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government ruled out negotiations with the separatists on Thursday.

Police urged them to surrender during a ceasefire on Friday but the militants answered the loudspeaker appeal with a volley of gunfire.

Offensive

Police said they did not want to move into the central area of the complex to root out the militants, who are fighting from an independent Sikh homeland in the prosperous northern state of Punjab.

"We do not want to enter the temple. Short of entering the temple, we will do the best we can in sniping the militants," Amritsar deputy police chief A.A. Siddiqui told reporters.

"I suppose we have never had such a good position before. We are adopting offensive positions. We do not want to lose the advantage," he said.

When the confrontation began on Monday with a seven-hour gunbattle, police estimated about 100 militants were in the temple. Since then, at least 25 people have been killed, most of them militants.

Police said only the extremists, some family members and supporters remained in the complex. About 800 people fled on Tuesday.

They joined 200 commandos

Siddiqui said the gunmen, armed with Chinese-made AK-47 assault rifles, were knocking holes through the walls of the rooms in which they were trapped so they could move around and communicate better.

He said they also appeared to be trying to reach a basement under the Akal Takht — the Eternal Throne — where police believe the gunmen have an arsenal that might contain more sophisticated weapons, such as grenade launchers.

The white marble buildings and golden roofs of the temple today echoed to intermittent gunfire that frequently exploded into heavy fighting.

Punjab police chief KPS Gill said he would make another loudspeaker appeal to the gunmen to allow women and children to leave the complex.

Arrests

In Chandigarh, the state capital, police arrested former Punjab Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal and 78 supporters for trying to go to Amritsar to resume the normally constant rituals at the Golden Temple silenced by the fighting.

They were remanded in custody for seven days on charges of breaching the peace.

Four of the five Sikh head priests were arrested in Amritsar on Thursday for trying to go to the temple. They were charged with breaking a curfew imposed around the complex.

Airlines told not to raise fares

By Fathima Ahmed

DESPITE Kuwait's Higher Council for Civil Aviation ruling, made yesterday at an extraordinary meeting, against any increase in air fares, some airlines, in defiance, are charging full IATA fares.

The council yesterday met under the chairmanship of Minister of State for Service Affairs, Issa Mohammed Al Mazidi to discuss the issue of air ticket prices.

The meeting also reviewed an earlier decision asking Kuwait Airways Corporation to study air fares and submit results to the council.

Discount

Eleven airlines had agreed to hike fares to IATA levels and were to start implementing it on the European and Indian sector from today.

Airline sources said the European airlines were "going back to pre-agreement fare levels," implying they were selling discounted tickets.

However, an agreement between KAC, British Airways and Air-India to implement IATA fares remains unchanged. The three airlines are apparently "defying the ruling".

There is also a general fallacy "about discounts", said a source. If an agent sells a ticket, for instance, to Doha for KD110 (the

(Continued on Page 2)

US rejects UN call for arbitration

UNITED NATIONS, May 14, (UPI): The United States has rejected a new UN General Assembly call for arbitration in the case of the US-ordered closure of the UN mission of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The General Assembly voted 136-2 in support of a decision by the International Court of Justice which last month ordered Washington to enter into arbitration in the PLO mission case.

The assembly "urges the host country (the United States) to abide by its international obligations and to act consistently with the advisory opinion of the International Court... and to name its arbitrator to the arbitral tribunal."

Pending

The United States and Israel cast the only negative votes, as they did in March when the 159-nation assembly voted to send the case before the International Court in the Hague, asking for its opinion on arbitration.

US Ambassador Patricia Byrne, acting US permanent representative to the United Nations, told the assembly that "because this matter is still pending in our courts, the United States believes it is inappropriate and untimely to consider the appropriateness of entering into arbitration... to resolve the dispute between the United States and the United Nations."

The headquarters agreement calls for arbitration in case of a dispute.

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Raj Kapoor critically ill

NEW DELHI, May 14, (Reuters): Indian movie mogul Raj Kapoor was critically ill today 12 days after being admitted to hospital with a serious attack of asthma, hospital sources said.

Raj Kapoor, 64, was on a respirator at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences because of a lung infection, a hospital spokesman said.

Filipino blast

MANILA, May 14, (AP): A blast shook the lobby of the unused Armed Forces General Headquarters building today, killing one soldier. Investigators said the blast may have been an accident.

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○ جنوبی بیروت میں فوج جیتے
○ کشمیری فیصلہ
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Iran will be hit if it attacks any Gulf state: Mubarak

By Ahmed Al Jarallah

THE Egyptian President, Hosni Mubarak, has said that if Iran strikes a Gulf state, Arab countries would be ready to provide the required assistance.

He added that he did not anticipate the Gulf war escalating beyond the point it has reached at present because of the instability of the internal Iranian situation.

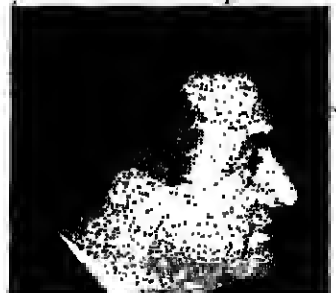
"Iran is well aware of the fact that if it hits them (Kuwait or Saudi Arabia) Iran will also be hit," Mubarak said during an exclusive interview.

Arrogance

"Iran should not think that if it strikes against a Gulf state, the Arabs will sit silently without retaliating."

Mubarak expressed confidence that Arab countries recognised the danger faced by the Gulf states and was confident that they would assist Gulf states if the need arose.

Speaking about the Iraq-Iran war, Mubarak said: "I don't think it will intensify more than it is at present." He added that Iran must rid itself of its arrogance



Mubarak: assistance

and accept peace in order for the peoples of the region to enjoy peace. Continuing the war will only damage and harm Iran, he said.

He said the decision taken by Saudi Arabia to sever ties with Iran was necessary following the propaganda war initiated by Tehran.

Disputes

"If I had been in the place of the Saudis," he said, "I would have made the decision immediately."

He added that if Iran continues their enmity against the Arab countries, the time will come when these Arab countries will be unable to remain silent, including those countries who

currently help Iran.

Moving from the Gulf situation to broader Arab concerns, Mubarak said that disputes between Arab countries are the main reason for Arab weakness, naming Moroccan-Algerian, Syrian-Iraqi and Libyan-Iraqi disputes as examples.

Mubarak said: "These disputes pave the way for enemies of the Arab world to achieve their goals."

The President expressed the opinion that if an Arab leader compromises with another, it should not result in worsening his relations with a third Arab country. He said that he hoped PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's visit to Syria would not disturb relations between Jordan and Syria.

Speaking about Egypt's diplomatic relations with Algeria, Mubarak said that Algeria has asked Egypt to send its foreign minister to Algeria to restore relations between the two countries. He added that there were differences among Algerian officials regarding this issue.

Mubarak said that relations between Egypt and Jordan were

(Continued on Page 2)

Israeli Army reopens West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 14, (Reuters): The Israeli Army reopened most of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip today but security forces stood by for violence on the 40th anniversary of the declaration of Israel.

The Army closed the territories yesterday because of expected demonstrations after prayers for the approaching Muslim holiday, Eid Al Fitr.

The West Bank city of Nablus and surrounding refugee camps remained under curfew, the Army said.

Troops shot and wounded a 16-year-old Palestinian during a demonstration at the Sba'it refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said. Several others were reported wounded from beatings by soldiers in camps around the strip.

The Army said it was investigating the report.

Syrian troops clash with Hezbollah-men

BEIRUT, May 14, (Agencies): Syrian peacekeeping forces, drawn into the fierce battle for control of south Beirut, clashed sporadically today with pro-Iranian Hezbollah fighters who had overrun Amal militia positions in a surprise attack.

The Syrian troops control the highway to Beirut airport where intense fighting erupted yesterday, shattering another short-lived ceasefire arranged by Syria and Iran.

As sporadic gunfire between the opposing forces continued through the night and early today, rival Palestinian forces waged a pitched battle at Burj Al Barajneh refugee camp in south Beirut, police said.

They said commandos loyal to Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat traded machine-gun fire, rocket-propelled grenades and artillery shells with followers of Said Musa, leader of a 1983 rebellion against Arafat.

Amal militiamen yesterday were ousted from positions captured during a week of heavy exchanges with the Hezbollah, which left at least 175 dead and another 300 wounded in the impoverished south suburbs of Beirut.

As the Amal militiamen retreated before the fierce Hezbollah onslaught, Syrian forces opened fire at the Hezbollah to warn against moving the fighting to Syrian-controlled areas. Five Hezbollah gunmen and a Syrian soldier were killed in the exchange, sources said.

Syria, apparently alarmed at the inroads made by Hezbollah in Beirut, ordered its troops today, into the city's southern suburbs to end bitter inter-Sunite battles.

About 3,000 troops would start moving into the Lebanese capital from the eastern Bekaa valley within hours, Amal militia officials said.

Senate puts condition on sale of arms to Saudis

WASHINGTON, May 14, (Reuters): The US Senate has reacted to the Chinese sale of a medium-range missile to Saudi Arabia by imposing a new condition on the sale of US weapons to the kingdom.

The Senatesaid that before the United States could sell arms to Saudi Arabia "or to any other nation which has procured CSS-2 Chinese-made missiles," the President had to certify to Congress that the purchasing country "does not have chemical, biological or nuclear warheads for such missiles."

The condition was contained in an amendment attached by voice vote to a bill authorising \$299.5 billion in defence spending in the 1989 fiscal year.

The Reagan administration has proposed selling \$825 million worth of military hardware and services to the Saudis amid congressional concern over the Saudi purchase of the Chinese sale of the 2,000-mile-range CSS-2 missile.

The Saudis have asserted the missiles are intended as protection against any attack from Iran.

Truck bomb kills 11 as Soviets prepare to quit

KABUL, May 14, (Agencies): A bomb exploded inside a truck today near reviewing stands being prepared for farewell ceremonies tomorrow marking the withdrawal of Soviet soldiers. A Soviet official said 11 people were killed and 12 wounded.

The blast occurred in a residential area along the Kabul River.

Witnesses said they saw four bodies being removed from one house, which was destroyed.

Vladimir Sevruk, deputy chief of the Soviet Communist Party central committee's propaganda department, gave the casualty figures to reporters in Kabul.

Demolished

The blast demolished embankment walls on both sides of the river that threads through the capital. Blood was visible on the gates of a nearby factory and personal belongings, including carpet slippers, were scattered in the street.

Witnesses said there were flames visible when they arrived shortly after the blast.

The truck in which the bomb had been planted lay badly mangled at the scene.

Soviet officers said the hardware was out to prepare the way for the start of the long trek home.

"It's basically a reconnaissance operation," said Maj. Valery Opanasenko of the Kabul military district office. "We are making preparations so that our boys make it to the border."

The troops manning the armour were setting out gasoline pumps and supplies along the route to be used by retreating Soviet soldiers.

For security reasons, Soviet officers and civilian officials have been urged to leave the exact number of troops who will begin the move north tomorrow.

ARAB TIMES

Grand Bingo

The KD 25 Four Corners prize has been won by Mr Arthur Jerald D'Silva. Game No. 64 continues for the Top Line and three Full Houses.

Bid to seek centrist support

France faces snap elections

PARIS, May 14. (Reuters): President Francois Mitterrand makes a final plea to centrist politicians today to join France's new socialist government and avoid a general election in June.

Prime Minister Michel Rocard, whose three-day-old government could be one of the shortest-lived in French history, said Mitterrand would have last talks with centrists "then decide whether or not to dissolve parliament."

Political commentators said the centrists were unlikely to heed Mitterrand's call and elections would be called, but it was not known if he would announce the dissolution of parliament immediately.

Hectic weeks
He must announce the news by Monday if he is to fulfil an earlier pledge not to disturb voters during the July and August holidays.

The election campaign lasts 40 days under French law and commentators said the two-stage elections could be held on June 19 and June 26.

If Mitterrand calls elections this weekend, it will mark one of the most hectic weeks in French politics since the Fourth

Republic, when 20 governments were formed and disbanded over a 12-year period from 1946 to 1958.

The 71-year-old president was re-elected in elections last Sunday, clearly beating his long-time rival, conservative Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

Chirac's centre-right coalition government, which had ruled since March 1986, resigned on Tuesday and Mitterrand named the moderate socialist Rocard, 57, as prime minister the next day.

Mitterrand had pledged to bring centrist politicians into the cabinet to produce a centre-left government and ensure a majority in parliament. Chirac's outgoing coalition had a four-seat majority.

Offer

Former Environment Minister Alain Carignon said he had refused an offer of a ministerial portfolio under Rocard. Other prominent centrists also turned down offers.

New socialist Interior Minister Pierre Joxe said: "We opened the door but found there were not very many people behind it."

Centrists accused Rocard of refusing to reply to its demand for the restoration of a proportional representation voting system, which favours smaller centrist parties.

Some commentators said Mitterrand had failed in his bid to form a centre-left government. But one of France's most respected analysts, Serge July of the leftist newspaper Liberation, said Mitterrand had wanted to be seen to be forced into calling parliamentary elections.

Opinion polls carried out after Mitterrand's victory show the socialists would win a clear majority in elections.

Meeting

A school reunion atmosphere reigned at the first meeting of France's new leftist cabinet on Friday, sweeping away two years of ill-concealed hostility between President Mitterrand and a conservative government.

Old friends, out of office since March 1986, embraced each other in the courtyard of the Elysee presidential palace as they arrived for the meeting, brushing aside suggestions that the government would be short-lived.

"Do you think I've just come here to see Nathalie?" said new Social Affairs Minister Michel Delebarre, hugging Nathalie Duhamel, long-time press officer to Mitterrand.

As the cabinet sat down for its first meeting since Rocard announced its formation on Thursday, even Mitterrand was seen smiling as he placed his new team around a large rectangular table in the Elysee's Murat salon.

Many of Rocard's new ministers have been returned to the ministries they occupied in 1986, when a socialist government was ousted by former Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's centre-right coalition.

Alliance

Mitterrand was forced to nominate Chirac and spend two years in an uneasy alliance which ended on May 8, when Mitterrand beat Chirac in a presidential election. Chirac's government resigned a day later.

Cabinet meetings during the two years were icy affairs, according to observers, with the socialist President often angering Chirac by refusing to sanction his policies.

Sinatra defends Reagans

NEW YORK, May 14. (Reuters): Frank Sinatra defended his friends at the White House on Friday and attacked sensational biographies, calling the authors "pimps and whores".

During his first in-depth television interview in 25 years, the 73-year-old singer took swipes at the media and lambasted "kiss-and-tell" books such as former White House chief of staff Donald Regan's best-selling new book.

"I'm saying that those are the pimps and the whores," Sinatra said on a television chat show.

"They're the ones who write the books about people with whom they had a kind of privacy association ... and suddenly they're out making a huck because they got a pigeon."

Sinatra made reference to Regan's new book in which President Reagan's wife Nancy is described as an ardent stargazer. Saying he was on close terms with Mrs Reagan and knew Donald Regan, he expressed surprise at the "impact" caused by Mrs Reagan's interest in astrology.

Shultz brings accord for Senate study

WASHINGTON, May 14. (Reuters): Secretary of State George Shultz brought home to Washington on Friday a signed agreement he hopes will clear the way for Senate approval of a historic US-Soviet treaty scrapping of medium-range missiles.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said Shultz would meet on Monday with key Senate committees to try to convince them the agreement signed in Geneva would satisfy their concerns about compliance provisions relating to the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) pact.

Redman spoke with reporters en route from Brussels, where Shultz briefed NATO allies in two days of final planning talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze for the May 29-June 2 superpower summit in Moscow.

The Senate committees — foreign relations, intelligence and armed services all have a role "to play as the Senate exercises its constitutional authority to 'advise and consent' on treaties."

Privately, some US officials said they are worried that Senators — many of whom harbour a deep distrust of Moscow — will continue to find fault with the compliance provisions, designed to ensure neither side cheats on the treaty, which calls for elimination of all superpower missiles in the INF class.

However, Shultz said he believed the agreement signed on Friday by US and Soviet negotiators after an all-night bargaining session would answer Senate concerns.

US and Soviet officials are hoping the Senate will quickly approve the pact so President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev can exchange instruments of ratification in Moscow.

Shultz told a news conference in Brussels earlier on Friday that Soviet officials may have been testing US resolve when they sought a last-minute change in a medium-range missile agreement.

Manila turns down Marcos' plea

MANILA, May 14. (Reuters): The Philippine government has turned down new requests from former President Ferdinand Marcos to return from exile in the United States to attend his mother's funeral, the presidential palace said today.

A spokesman said President Corason Aquino and members of her cabinet rejected the request because it would not be in the country's interest.

"We know the capabilities of the ex-president but his capabilities also depend on the United States ... whether the US will allow him to come back or not," the spokesman quoted Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno as saying.

"I suppose the US government will respect the position taken by the President and her cabinet on the matter," Benigno said.

Marcos, who ruled the Philippines for 20 years, fled to Hawaii in 1986 after he was overthrown by a civilian-backed military revolt.

Iran will be hit if it attacks a Gulf state

(Continued from Page 1)

very good and that they coordinate their efforts in all fields, especially in areas related to the Palestinian question.

Renewed

When queried about the climate of the Arab world following the Amman summit, Mubarak said that while the outcome of the meeting was good, disputes have arisen since it was concluded.

Speaking about the attitude of the superpowers toward the Gulf war, Mubarak said there has been no evidence of a change in attitude even though the Soviets have agreed to withdraw from Afghanistan. The President said that the superpowers have started the process of détente.

Discussing the Palestinian uprising, Mubarak said it must be used to its maximum.

"If we do not utilise the Palestinian uprising politically to the maximum, it will become routine daily news," he said.

Mubarak acknowledged that conditions in the area were changing and said that he would have to accept reasonable options in order to modify what does not suit him.

He said: "It is impossible for me to continue rejecting everything if I am to avoid losing the world's response with me." "If we are truly looking for peace, we should be objective."

He said he was waiting for the outcome of the PLO's visit to Amman for talks with King Hussein because reaching an agreement with Jordan is basic to solving the question of the Palestinian cause.

Although some speak of separating the PLO from the up-

rising, Mubarak said that such talk was simply an attempt to disunite Palestinians.

"Any talk about such subject is a call for disunity among the Palestinians, which is not in favour of anyone's interests," he said.

"What is important now is to seriously attract world attention towards the uprising and utilise its results."

Conference

Regarding an international peace conference rather than direct negotiations, Mubarak said that the conference would result in direct negotiations.

He added: "We should solve the Arab and Palestinian internal problems before facing the other party in the conference."

He said that when the PLO holds talks with King Hussein about the international conference they would be able to deal

with the initiative presented by US Secretary of State George Shultz.

"We should discuss any step we find worthwhile in this initiative and that which needs developing."

Mubarak said that there are some powers in Israel which want peace and want to abandon the West Bank in favour of peace. He said that we should not lose these forces that want peace, emphasising that many things would be achieved when negotiations began.

The President acknowledged that Israel opposes any Arab country owning efficient and powerful weapons and when asked about the threats made by Israel against the Chinese made Saudi long range missiles, said: "We should remember that Israel is not our custodian."

He said that Israel must realise that Saudi Arabia is a peace-loving country which understands that threats will not solve the issues.

"The Israeli threat to Saudi Arabia is a threat against all Arabs," Mubarak said, "and I don't think any Arab country will accept such a threat."

Sale
Regarding questions that have arisen over Egyptian land being sold to Zionist companies, Mubarak said that any land to be sold in Egypt would be a decision made by him personally.

"In this capacity I will be in a position to know to whom the land will be sold," he said.

Speaking about the Egyptian economic situation, Mubarak said that while there are many difficulties which still face Egypt, much has been achieved.

He acknowledged that the large Egyptian population was a factor requiring an economic solution, saying this would not be an easy problem to control.

Continuing on this issue, the President said that Egypt is striving to be self-sufficient in food.

The President stated that King Fahd of Saudi Arabia intended to visit Egypt but no specific date had been fixed for the visit.

Priorities

On the issue of establishing democracy in Egypt, the Egyptian President believed as head of state this would pose no problem as he had both the authority and the ability to address the complexities.

"Providing jobs to more than 50 million people, strengthening the economy and encouraging investments and increasing the standard of living are our priorities," he said.

On the question of bread subsidy versus granting increases in salaries the President said, the real subsidy for bread amounted to more than 1.7 billion Egyptian pounds and granting increases would benefit only government employees. He said cash distribution was not feasible as it would not reach the really needy families.

"The subsidy, I believe is a necessary evil for the present and hopefully the time will come when these can be removed," he added.

Airlines told not to raise fares

(Continued from Page 1)

published IATA fare is KD162, he is not "undercutting". In Dhaka, the price of the ticket is equivalent to KD 110 in taka.

"Actually, he is not undercutting. He is selling at IATA fares, but as applicable in his country of origin," said one source.

There is also a "feeling of general mistrust" and "misinterpretation" about the air fare rules in the market, said one source.

Confusion

He feels that if the shelved Air Service Law were implemented, the market could be better monitored.

The confusion started after Air-India first announced its decision to hike fares in mid-April. Indians in Kuwait have formed an action committee to fight the AI fare hike and are to hold a meeting with the Indian envoy, N.N. Jha, on Monday.

The closed-door meeting, called by the action committee, will deal with AI fare hike and would appeal to the Indian embassy to intervene on their behalf and redress the grievance of over 100,000 Indians living in Kuwait. Ninety per cent of the Indians would suffer due to the air fare hike.

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Delhi minister to visit Colombo

India to pull out from Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, May 14. (Reuters): Indian Defence Minister K.C. Pant will visit Sri Lanka within a week to discuss the phased withdrawal of Indian troops, a senior minister said.

Lands Development Minister Gnanapavan said India expected to pacify Tamil rebels by the end of May and would need fewer soldiers on the island.

India says it has sent 50,000 troops to put down a Tamil separatist war in North and East Sri Lanka under a July 1987 agreement with Colombo.

Timetable

Dissanayake, who met Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi this week, said India had promised to bring peace to the Northern and Eastern provinces by end of this month.

This would mean "that troops as of their present strength are

not necessary, that there can be a phased withdrawal according to agreed schedules," he told a news conference.

"The timetable will be communicated to you after the visit of Pant because he's coming here for that purpose," he said.

Dissanayake declined to give further details and would not say whether some Indian forces would remain on the island.

Hundreds of Indian soldiers have been killed trying to disarm Tamils who oppose the agreement which aimed to end their bloody five-year-long struggle for a separate Tamil state in the Sinhalese-majority island.

Dissanayake returned from Delhi on Thursday after five days of talks as Sri Lankan President Jumas Jayewardene's special

envoy.

Even after Indian troops took absolute control of the North and East there would still be "peripheral violence," he said.

He estimated Indian soldiers in Sri Lanka numbered 60,000 to 75,000 compared with official Indian estimates of 50,000.

An Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman said Pant would discuss the implementation of the accord.

"(Army) strength will be based on operational requirements and the role it is required to play in fulfilling the terms of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement," the spokesman said.

Dissanayake said the question of arms surrender was a major stumbling block in talks between Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas and Indian officials.

Witches say they don't need a king

LONDON, May 14. (Reuters): Friday proved unpropitious for the witches of the world — they could not find a new king.

After meeting in a secret location somewhere in Britain, the witches council decided against naming a "successor" to high priest Verbias, also known as Alex Sanders, who died last week after a 25-year-old reign.

"After due consideration, a unanimous motion was carried that there is no need for a king of the witches," high priest Nigel Bourne told Reuters. "This is fortunate as there is no one properly prepared for the role."

Sanders was spiritual leader to about 100,000 witches in Britain and up to a million worldwide, Bourne said, and "led the hidden children of the goddess into the light."

He campaigned to make witchcraft acceptable after it was legalised in Britain in 1951 and experts say the ancient craft is enjoying its biggest resurgence here in a century.

Sanders' son and heir-apparent, Victor is in the United States and expected to remain there for some time. "He's 16 and doesn't necessarily wish to be involved," the high priest said.

Chinese hijackers face prosecution

TAIPEI, May 14. (Reuters): Two men who hijacked a Chinese Boeing 737 to Taiwan face prosecution, but court officials said today they would be treated leniently because they were "freedom seekers."

State radio said the case had been passed to the Taipei district prosecutors' office by the Taiwan garrison command, which is responsible for internal security.

Under Taiwan law, prosecutors will gather evidence and then decide whether to take the case to court.

The prosecutors' office said the motive of the two men was "simply to seek freedom," and they would be treated leniently, the radio reported.

The hijackers, armed with fake handgrenades and a toy pistol, took over the plane carrying 107 passengers and a crew of 11 as it flew from the southern Chinese city of Xiamen to Canton on Thursday.

The plane slipped past Chinese MIG jets and was intercepted by Taiwan fighters who escorted it to a military base. The plane returned to China yesterday after

the hijackers left the plane.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) which represents 168 commercial airlines, called on Taiwan to either prosecute the hijackers or extradite them to China.

"It's a situation of considerable interest to us," Rodney Walker, the association's security chief, said yesterday. The association urges governments to discourage air piracy by not offering safe havens to hijackers.

Refuge
Taiwan's Nationalist government maintains the hijackers came to Taiwan to escape what it regards as communist tyranny and has said they will be given refuge.

"If we send these people back to the mainland we are simply sending them back to their doom," government spokesman Shaw Yu-Ming told a news conference yesterday.

"We cannot condone or encourage hijacking," he said. But he noted that nobody was hurt during Thursday's hijacking, the first time a Chinese civilian airliner has been diverted to Taiwan.

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Call for stricter control

Sound antibiotics policy needed

By Jadranka Porter

KUWAIT is in urgent need of a sound antibiotics policy to ensure the optimal use of the drugs and to cut down on wastage, according to Dr Abdullah Assad, the director of pharmaceutical services.

He called for a stricter control in prescribing and dispensing of antibiotics but stressed that extensive research to determine the disease pattern in Kuwait and pinpoint the strains of bacteria resistant to antibiotics have to be conducted first.

Some steps in that direction have been taken by the setting up of the Drug Information Centre at the Adnan hospital but "we have not perfected the system yet" Assad said. The improper use of drugs such as antibiotics takes place, said Assad, when doctors prescribe them not knowing that a patient is resistant to them. In cases like this drugs are wasted and a new course of treatment has to be prescribed.

He called for a larger pool of

information to be established with a pharmacist in charge who could give physicians up-to-date advice on suitable therapy and combination of drugs to be prescribed bearing in mind the side effects and drug interaction.

A clear-cut policy drawing on the expertise from laboratories, clinicians, physicians and pharmacists is required, he said. It should be based on facts collected through research which would identify disease patterns in Kuwait and the bacteria in patients resistant to particular drugs. Instances of cross-resistance, when one patient infects another with bacteria resistant to a particular drug, should also be explored, Assad said.

Wastage
Studies and research from other countries could be valuable, he said, but he warned against adopting other countries' policies. "The disease pattern varies from country to country. It even varies from one area in Kuwait to another. This is why we have to do our own research and devise our own antibiotic policy," said Assad.

"We have to give patients what they need in quantity and type" he said adding that in some instances doctors prescribe larger than needed quantities of drugs which again leads to wastage.

Assad pointed out that certain amount of drug wastage by the Health Ministry is inevitable and it usually involves indispensable drugs with short shelf life. Kuwait is far removed from the large drug-manufacturing centres and has to keep a stock of these drugs for urgent cases. He was unable to put a figure to the amount of drugs wasted in such a way by the Health Ministry.

Ibrahim Jasim Al Mudaf, the Assistant Undersecretary for medicines and medical supplies, said drug wastage by the Health Ministry was kept to a minimum. Drugs with short shelf life, he said, were shipped in Kuwait in periodic consignments. The Ministry's budget for drug imports was increased in 1987/88 from KD14 million to KD18 million. Since the beginning of Iraq-Iran war Kuwait has maintained an eight-month strategic stock of drugs, said Al Mudaf.

Receiving donations for Zakat project

THE chairperson of the Palestinian Women Union in Kuwait, Siham Al Dahbagh, has said that the union will still accept donations for the Zakat project for needy Palestinians.

At a press conference held recently, Al Dahbagh said the union had approved an education project for needy students and the organisation of a number of vocational courses for qualifying students.

She said that about 2,000 Palestinian children were sponsored by the union with tuition fees totalling KD200,000 per year. She added that the union also gives monthly financial assistance to about 82 needy families.

Formation of higher council for transport likely soon

A LOCAL newspaper has quoted an official source at the Amiri Diwan as saying that an Amiri decree will shortly be issued announcing the formation of a higher council for transport. The council would be entrusted to draw up a national transport policy along with recommendations for its implementation.

The sources stated the council would comprise of members from various government authorities, such as, the Communications Ministry, the General Traffic Department, Kuwait Public Transport Company, the General Customs Department, and the Directorate of Civil Aviation.

The sources added the council would hold two to three meetings each year to study proposed

recommendations prior to formulating a final draft plan which would be presented to relevant government authorities for endorsement and execution.

In another related development, authorities have finalised drafting a bill to organise the overland public transport sector and the bill awaits submission for endorsement to the Council of Ministers after the Eid holidays.

The draft bill aims at regularising and developing the operations of overland transport service by way of an overall restructuring of existing companies and establishments.

The draft bill recommends a fine of KD1000 be imposed on all operators who do not possess valid authorisation.



The Minister of Electricity and Water Dr Homoud Al Rqobah has signed a contract valued at KD2,426,665 with a British consultant in cooperation with a local firm INCO. The contract pertains to the preparation of predevelopment engineering consultative studies for the Subiya sub-station project.

Cabinet to discuss permanent residence

A LOCAL newspaper quoting official government sources, said the Council of Ministers intends discussing a draft proposal for granting Arab residents in Kuwait occupying key posts for a long time the privilege of an open residence visa or permanent stay permit.

The Council of Ministers would simultaneously study another draft proposal permitting Arab citizens holding permanent stay permits the right to own flats or residential accommodations, at the rate of one flat or residential unit, be it a government house or a villa. The sources said it is very likely the Council of Ministers would endorse

these proposals before the end of this year.

The same sources added that an ad-hoc ministerial committee had earlier looked into this proposal, but had to call off its activity following the developments in the country and the region. The ad-hoc committee had hoped the study would be resumed at an appropriate date.

The sources said that the criteria would be: Arab nationality, legal residence in the country for 15-20 years continuous good conduct without any criminal record or being convicted of any moral or other offences.

Kuwait's role lauded

ACCORDING to a recent scientific study, Kuwait has played a major role in the organisation of the Gulf Cooperation Council structure.

The study, conducted by Saudi Prince Nawaf Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud for his Masters degree thesis, showed that the structure of the GCC was influenced by HH the Amir, who was at the time of the GCC's inception, the crown prince, and the United Arab Emirates President, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan.

According to the study, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed called in 1976 for the establishment of a national organisation in the Gulf area to integrate political, economic, educational and informational activities among the six member states.

The study quoted sources as saying that the Gulf Summit Conference held in Makkah and Taif in January 1981, approved the Kuwaiti paper recommending the establishment of the Gulf Council which would later lead to the regional Gulf Cooperation Council.

Omani envoy

COMMERCE and Industry Minister Faisal Al Khalid yesterday received Omani's Ambassador to Kuwait Abdullah Bin Mohamed Al Kheroussi, on the occasion of the end of his mission here.

Bangkok flights stay suspended

KUWAIT Airways flights to Bangkok and Manila will remain suspended until security on the route is reviewed, an airline spokesman said yesterday.

The flights were halted after Arab gunmen hijacked a Kuwaiti airliner en route from Bangkok to Kuwait on April 5 and killed two Kuwaiti passengers before finally releasing their remaining hostages in Algiers 16 days later.

The airline originally said flights would restart early in May. Its flights on other Asian routes, which were also suspended, have now resumed, the spokesman said.

Left
In Rabat, American Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead disclosed that the US now believes that the nine hijackers have now left Algeria.

Whitehead, on a current tour to a number of Arab countries in North Africa, said: "It seems that the hijackers have freely left Algeria and from now on they will not be arrested and will not stand a trial."

Whitehead's statement came after his visit to Algeria earlier in the week. He said he was told by Algerian officials that the hijackers have left Algeria.

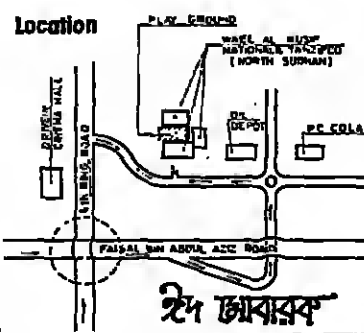
Moon-sighting Committee meeting

KUWAIT'S Ministry of Justice announced that the Moon-sighting Committee will meet at the Ministries Complex in Murqah at 8.30 pm tonight.

The committee will receive information from those who were able to sight the crescent of the moon for the first day of the Shawwal month.

EID PRAYERS

The Bangladesh Association, Kuwait, will hold the Eid-ul-Fitr prayer at 6:30 am at the playground in between Tanzeef and Weil Al-Nusif Co. camps in Sabhan (North). His Excellency, the Ambassador of Bangladesh, along with other Embassy members are likely to attend the prayer. All Bangladeshis are requested to attend.



Merchant seamen worry about next moves in Gulf shipping war

DUBAI, May 14. (Reuters) - The British and US navies are waiting for the next move in a deadly game of cat and mouse.

One question being asked is what will Iran do now, after the beating its Navy took last month in a battle with US warships?

For thousands of merchant seamen the answer could be a matter of life or death.

"Any sort of violence could happen," said Ernesto Chavez, a Filipino seaman on shore in this Gulf port. "The Americans or Iranians could go crazy again. Or the war might just go away."

Nothing would surprise seasoned sailors who ply the waterway past mines, fortified islands, Silk worm missiles and US, Soviet, British, French and Italian warships.

Protection
At least 68 merchant seamen have been killed this year, some by Iraqi jets firing Exocet missiles from 40 miles away, others by Iranian gunboats spraying machinegun bullets from only a few metres away.

Merchant seamen from around the globe have been dying since 1981 in the name of the Iran-Iraq war.

Some say they are afraid and some do not, but all are cynical about the international politics that put their tankers and cargo ships in the front line with no-one to defend them.

Seamen have long called for help and late last month the United States answered. It extended the protection it already offered US-flag ships to neutral vessels but not those going to Iraqi or Iranian ports.

Doubts
But many shippers have doubts about Washington's motives.

"It's just another way to browbeat Iran," said a Western shipping source, who declined to be named.

"The Americans could have protected (neutral) ships years ago if they wanted to." He noted that the new protection was

announced just 11 days after a US-Iranian naval battle and said the US rules of engagement, which favour neither side to theory, will favour Iraq in practice.

Ships will not be defended if they are serving Iran or Iraq. That means Iraq can continue to raid tankers carrying Iranian oil, which provides nearly 90 per cent of the country's export revenue, without risk of US interference.

Speculate
But Iraq's own ports are closed because of the war. Iran raids ships serving Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states that it says support Baghdad and such attacks now risk US retaliation.

Whatever the reasons for the sudden US interest in their welfare, many merchant seamen feel safer because of it.

Iran has not attacked a ship since the new policy was announced on April 29. Its gunboats still patrol the Strait of Hormuz, through which dozens of tankers enter the Gulf each day, but have done no more than question ships by radio.

Sailors relaxing ashore before starting a voyage up the Gulf can only speculate on what will happen if Tehran's gunboats start raiding again.

Mines
One thinks the Americans will turn a blind eye, afraid of being drawn into a war that Tehran says could turn into another Vietnam.

Another seaman wonders if Washington would use the excuse to destroy Iran's Bandar Abbas naval base at the mouth of the Gulf.

Diplomats hold similar conversations and say Washington's Gulf policy has been anybody's guess since its Navy sank or destroyed six Iranian warships on April 18.

Britain and France are reviewing their navies' role in the Gulf but are unlikely to join the Americans in extending protection beyond ships with their own

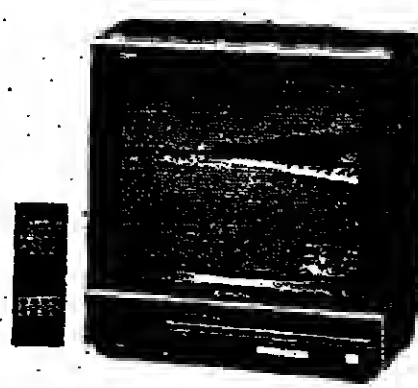


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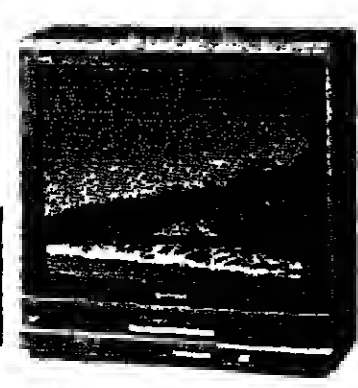
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GOING PLACES

KES holds Speech Day

THE Kuwait English School (KES) recently held their annual Speech Day at the school premises. The annual prize-giving for seniors was also held.

The Head of the Senior Department, John Mitchell, welcomed the guests of honour, Kuwait University Vice-Rector Abdullah Bishara, and British Consul Larry Banks.

KES chairman, Jassim Al Saddah, opened the ceremony and commented on the British education system "going hand in hand to ensure Arab and Islamic heritage." It was also

mentioned that the GCSE examination has been officially recognised by Kuwait University.

The musical interlude was provided by the school band and the Arabic choir. KES Head Boy Stewart and Head-girl Brigitta Schluet recited Desiderata.

School principal Rhoda Muhmood, in her closing remarks, paid tribute to the students, parents and staff of the school. Mrs Muhmood expressed her appreciation to John Mitchell, who is returning to Scotland after four years in Kuwait.



Abdullah Bishara presents a prize to a student.

Ballerina girls

MORE than 30 girls between the ages of three and a-half and 12, last week took part in the second annual ballet show, Ballerina Girls, held at the Messilah Beach Hotel.

They were taught dance by Diana Law, the hotel's ballet teacher. Eight numbers were performed including a routine to nursery rhymes, Grade I and II dancing and a variation of Richard Claydeman's music. The grade I and II girls did their interpretation of a Strauss Waltz. The grade III Ballet dancers performed a romantic number to Romeo and Juliet. Two solos were danced with sabina Bagyura performing to Qui Ma and Annali Rushton dancing to Ballerina Girl. The finale included all the ballerinas.



Above and below: two ballerinas in the dancing mood (Photos by Raed Gutaina)



The senior choir presents a song on the Speech Day

© All entries for the What's On column must be handed over personally to Events Section, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.



Above: ASK Superintendant Dr Brian McCauley, Activity Director Fritz Cameron and the speakers Mrs Santucci and Dutremble. Below: some ASK students who attended the banquet

ASK banquet

THE American School, Kuwait (ASK) recently held their annual Activities Awards Banquet at the SAS Hotel's Tent. More than 300 parents, students, teachers, sponsors and ministry officials attended. Students were awarded for outstanding performance in sports, music and drama.

The speakers for the evening were Mrs Vickie Santucci of the Fine Arts Department of ASK and Roger Dutremble, coach of the Kazma Club's Championship Basketball Team.



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CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Hot Shots
Al Salmiya
Down and Out in Beverly Hills
Drive-In
Hasna Wa Amalqah
Starring: Huwaida, Hikmat
Wahba, Fuad Sharf Uddin
Al Hamra
Karakoun Fi Al Sharah
(Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Yusra
At Firdous
Kabhi Kabhi (Hindi)
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Rakhee
Fahadheel Open-Air
Kanoon Kanoon Hai
(Hindi)

Al Fahadheel
Enforcer
Al Jahra
Mazloom (Hindi)
Granada
Naya Zamana (Hindi)
Salaikhah
Legal Eagle
Al Jleeb
Razercam (Malayalam)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Tiger Joe

PRAYERS

Fajr 3.25 am
Zohr 11.44
Asr 3.20 pm
Maghreb 6.34
Isha 8.01

Adolf joins Top Ranks

THE popular Goan singer Adolf Fernandes (above), will perform at the Weekend Club's show, Summer Affair 88, on Monday night.

Adolf, who is a familiar face at local hotels, began his career in 1968 and performed extensively in Calcutta, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Bombay. In Kuwait, he has sung with Class Act, High Frequency and participated in two rock concerts. Adolf recently joined Top Ranks.



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Turkish Embassy announcement

A reception will be held on the first day of Eid Al-Fitr, at the embassy premises, for the Turkish community from 12.00 noon to 1.00 pm.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

1.00 Holy Quran
1.10 Cartoons: Tao Tao
1.30 Magazine D'Actualite
2.00 Zahrat Al Saif: historical serial
3.00 On Ramadan: guests are Dr. Abdullah Shihata, Dr. Abdul Suboor Shahin
3.35 Al Jarrooh: last episode of Arabic serial
4.45 Sanawat Al Sabar: daily serial, featuring Suhair Al Murshidi, Magdi Wahba, Hamdi Ahmad, George Seedham
5.30 Hadith Deeni: religious talk
6.30 Mumlikat Al Haiwan: cartoon
6.45 After Iftar
7.00 Madinat Al Riyah: children's serial, starring Khalid Al Obaid, Abdul Rahman Al Aqal, Jassim Nabhan, Mobammad Jaber, Huda Hussein

8.00 Nazrat Al Alam: Cultural film
8.15 Diwanayat Shuara Al Nab: poetry session
9.00 Dairat Al Khair: religious programme
9.30 Ramadan Contest: hosted by Huda Hussein
10.00 News in Arabic
11.00 Musafir Bila Hawaiyya: local serial, featuring Ghanem Al Saleh, Hayat Al Fahad
12.00 Saber Ya Umm Saber: late night serial
1.00 Shahad Athbat: Arabic film, starring Mahmoud Yassen, Maali Zayed, Ahmad Rateb
2.20 News Summary/Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

8.00 Holy Quran
8.10 The Care Bears: cartoons
8.30 Danger Bay: a pilot suffers a heart attack

while flying his plane
9.00 News in English
9.40 Islamic Horizon: "The Forty Hadith"
10.00 Islam and Muslims Around the World: Muslims in Australia. A look at the life of the small minority of Muslims in Australia
10.40 Flying Doctors: One more emergency occurs in the desert as the doctors exchange their duty
11.30 Together We Stand: mother leaves town of a holiday and the kids are told to look after themselves
12.00 Best Seller: "Hold the Dream". Sean and Paula fall in love
Starring: Jenny Seagrove and Deborah Kerr
1.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Boushahri Gallery
Watercolour paintings by Yugoslav artist Jovica Prodanovic will be exhibited at the Boushahri Gallery, Salem Al Mubarak St., Salmiya, from May 23, 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8.40 pm.

THEATRE

Kuwait Players
Tonight, 7.30 pm, is the last performance of Anhidote — a Kuwait Players show of quick fire adult comedy sketches, at the Universal American School, Salwa. Tickets KD3. For reservations call 5613465; 5610925 (pm) or 5611546 (pm).
Natya Bharati
Natya Bharati, a group of Indian amateur dramatists, will present a Hindi play, Undersecretary, a comedy, on May 18, 7 pm at the Indian Arts Circle auditorium. Passes are available from the IAC or call 4880965 or 2644863.

Kuwait Singers
"Songs for a Summer Evening" is the title of a concert by the Singers. It will be held on May 31 and June 1 at the UAS, Salwa. Tickets — KD2. For reservations ring 3940770 ext 57; 5384873; 5740627 (answering service).
KLT
KLT, Ahmadi, will present Brigadoon, a musical, on June 1, 7.30 pm, gala night. Further performances are at 8.15 pm on June 7, 8 and 9 and at 5.30 pm on June 2, 3. Tickets KD 3. Children — KD2. For reservations ring 3983724.

Natya Fauj
A Bengali social drama "Haire Dinar (Endless Cry)" will be staged at Fintas Camp, Mahboba, on May 18, 8.30 pm. All Bangladeshis are welcome.

SOCIAL

Open-House for Bangladeshis
The Bangladesh Ambassador will hold an open-house on Eid day from 10 am to 12 noon in Mishref, Block 6, House 58, Road 6. All Bangladeshis are welcome.

Lebaran — Open House
On the occasion of 'Lebaran', the Indonesian Ambassador and Mrs Djamiluddin Joeda will hold an open house on the first day of Eid Al Fitr, from 10 am to 2 pm, at their residence in Surra, Block 6, Street 9, Villa 3. All Indonesians are welcome.

Summer Affair 88
The Weekend Club will host Summer Affair 88 at the Regency Palace Hotel on Monday night. Music by Next of Kin, Top Ranks and Apaches. A beauty-cum-talent contest (to select Summer Queen 88) will be held; lots of surprises and prizes. Dinner features Indian and Continental cuisine. For reservations call Hilary — 5740933.

YMCA Holiday Special
The Young Men's Cricket Association (YMCA) will hold the Holiday Special on May 17, Messilah Beach Hotel. Highlights are music by Top Ranks with special competitions such as Made for Each Other Contest, Funky King and Queen. For reservations contact Lancy — 4814914, 9 am to 4 pm, 3981790; 3929518, 5 to 8 pm.

Mushaira
The Haqae Shoor-e-Adah, a literary society, will hold a poetry evening — mushaira — on May 19, Thursday, at the home of Abdul Ghaffar Naseer, M.D. Khan will be the chief guest and Omer Khatabi Iram will preside.

May Queen
The May Queen will be crowned at the Sheraton Hotel, Grand Ballroom, on May 16. City Lights and Stepping Stones in attendance. Highlight of the evening is a fashion show by Tapati Ray. The event has been organised by the Kuwait Goans Association.

SPORTS

Basketball Clinic
A clinic for basketball referees (only Filipinos) will be held on May 15, Sunday, at 6 pm in the Mabubay Restaurant. For details phone Bong Melencio — 4877793.

Young Goans Association
Seven-a-side football tournament on May 17, Al Sour Ground. Draw on same day at 7.30 am. Tournament begins at 7.45 am. For details contact Almeida on 481374.

Mini-Olympics
The Filipino Mini-Olympics will be held on May 17, 7 am, at the Keifan stadium. Games include basketball, volleyball, lawn tennis, table tennis, darts, and bowling. All events, except bowling, will be held at Keifan. Bowling will be held at the Silver Tower bowling lanes. Lawn tennis takes place at the Qadsia Club, Hawali. Spectators are requested to bring Kapiku ID cards for easy entry. For details call Bong Melencio — 4877793.

WARNING

Mr. Santosh Singh Jha —
Indian national — passport
No. V-266434

The above-named person's services were terminated by this company on 1.3.1988. His residence permit is about to be cancelled and he is requested to come to the BMB Personnel Department to finalise outstanding matters as early as possible.
Anyone knowing his whereabouts is requested to contact telephone No. 4818638/4818655.



NOTICE

The following personnel have left Al Mulla Group's employment:

Sr.No.	Names	Nationality	Passport No.
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2.	Shahk Bawa Ameer Deen	Indian	B 870130
3.	Susanto Dharmo Rao	Indian	A 096047
4.	Kedore Vijaykumar Jagannath	Indian	Y 634485
5.	Raja Masud Iqbal	Pakistani	AG 849201
6.	Mohd Mumtaz Choudhry	Pakistani	B 630208
7.	Gamar Pervaz Ghulam Nabi	Pakistani	C 574398
8.	Marellano E. Canindig Jr.	Filipino	KT 281828

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

It is absurd to divide people into good and bad. People are either charming or tedious—Oscar Wilde, Irish-born writer (1850-1900).

Karachi dubbed as worse than Beirut

By Ibrahim Khan

KARACHI, (Reuters): "Karachi is now worse than Beirut," said opposition politician Ghaus Bux Bizenjo of Pakistan's biggest city.

"Nobody is safe here," he said in an interview.

An exaggeration perhaps, but more and more residents of this Arabian Sea port of seven million people agree with the president of the Pakistan National Party (PNP).

Since October 1986, about 450 people have been killed in rioting between Pashtuns from Pakistan's northwestern borders and Mohajir immigrants from former British India.

"The future in Karachi is bleak and stained with blood," said Mohammad Zafar, a student at Karachi University.

But it is not just ethnic hatred that has periodically filled the streets of the country's biggest port and industrial centre with dead and wounded.

Opposition politicians blame chronic overcrowding, social problems, poverty, and government mismanagement for the troubles which killed another 35 people on Sunday and Monday.

Blame
The police blame drug smuggling rings which they say use their money and influence to spark trouble and keep police attention diverted from their own illegal dealings.

Karachi, sitting precariously by the sea on the edge of a desert, held only 300,000 people in 1974.

Now a quarter of a million migrate each year from the countryside looking for jobs, census officials said.

They said more than a dozen major ethnic groups now live in the metropolis facing acute shortages of water, power, housing, transport, education and work.

This population explosion is threatening to destroy Karachi, said Mairaj Mohammad Khan, convenor of the nine-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD).

The government is concerned about the riots which have crippled industry and port activity. Hussain Shakoor, a member of the Karachi Stock Exchange, said several entrepreneurs have already moved their businesses

out to safer places.

On Tuesday Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo ordered security agencies to put down the rioters with an iron hand.

Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, president of the National People's Party and a former chief minister of Sindh province, which includes Karachi, accused the government of President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq of failing to keep law and order.

Accused

"It is the result of nine years of military rule. The government should resign immediately and hold fresh elections," Jatoi told Reuters.

Both Zia and Junejo have said elections will be held on schedule in 1990.

The police said a powerful drug mafia, which smuggles millions of dollars of heroin and hashish from Afghanistan via Karachi to the Far East, the Gulf, Europe and America were behind the riots.

Pakistan Narcotics Control Board officials said the fabulous amount of money derived from drug smuggling was used to hire thugs to set off riots and thereby divert police attention so they could smuggle out more drugs.

Ghaus Ali Shah, who resigned as Chief Minister of Sindh a month ago after a difference with the government, agreed.

Mafia

"The drug mafia is behind the riots in Karachi," said Ghaus who launched a crusade against drugs and razed a famous drug den in the city's Sohrab Goth area in December 1986.

Several thousand troops and police took bulldozers to flatten over 5,000 houses, mainly used by Afghan refugees who were alleged to be storing drugs and arms in underground concrete cells.

The drug problem, however, is also an ethnic one because many Afghans are also Pashtun and it was Altaf Hussain, head of the Mohajir Qaum Movement (MQM), who first demanded that the area be destroyed or his own people would take action.

On October 30, 1986, a Mohajir demonstration in Sohrab Goth was attacked and five people were killed.

It was that action which started the rioting, which has never really stopped since.

Rocard to cement political centre

PARIS, (Reuters): Michel Rocard, a former militant leftist converted to social democracy, has the right credentials to consolidate the political centre newly dominated by President Francois Mitterrand.

The talented technocrat, named as prime minister by the President on Tuesday, was once cast into the wilderness for challenging Mitterrand for the top job.

But he was reconciled with the President during his re-election campaign and became his confident and virtual spokesman.

At the heart of Rocard's unpopularity within the Socialist Party were the free-market economics and financial austerity he championed at a time when the Socialists were bent on nationalisation and spending their way out of recession.

But the dapper, chain-smoking Rocard, a member of France's small but influential Protestant community, was vindicated when the last Socialist government of Laurent Fabius adopted the programme he had so long advocated.

Rocard, 57, played the role of Mitterrand's roving ambassador during the campaign, clear evidence that the two had mended old rifts.

Support

A former planning and agriculture minister whose poor standing in the party was always tempered by wider popular support, Rocard held out an olive branch to the right during the campaign.

He said the main right-wing candidates did France credit and that there were many good men in the opposite camp.

Rocard was born on Aug 23, 1930, at Courbevoie near Paris, into France's socially prominent Protestant community, and gained degrees in law and political science from the elite Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA).

After military service as a reserve officer in the French Air Force, he joined the Finance

Ministry in the late 1950s. He began his political career during the 1954-62 Algerian war when he was active in Christian student movements.

In 1967 he became head of a small "new left" movement, the Unified Socialist Party (PSU). In the 1969 presidential election he challenged Georges Pompidou but polled only 3.6 per cent of the national vote.

In 1973, Rocard — with the revolutionary dreams of the May 1968 student riots over in tatters — took most of his PSU supporters to join the Socialist Party. Mitterrand had resurrected in 1971.

Nomination

He declared well in advance that he planned to seek the Socialist nomination in the 1981 presidential election, but had to withdraw when Mitterrand announced he was a candidate.

Fabius, one of Mitterrand's lieutenants, savagely attacked him at a party congress for daring to challenge the creator of the modern French Socialist Party. Rocard entered the political wilderness.

When Mitterrand won in 1981, he had still not forgiven Rocard. But he found it impossible to ignore one of the party's best-qualified technocrats and Rocard was given the minor job of minister of planning.

Two years later he had moved up to the key post of agriculture minister in a new socialist government formed by Fabius. He won credit for leading his European Economic Community colleagues to a watershed agreement in March 1984 that imposed curbs on excess milk production and reined in runaway spending.

But after a long and fruitless fight against the Socialist's economic policies, he resigned in 1985.

He was untainted by the Rainbow Warrior scandal that rocked Fabius in July 1985, when French secret agents sank a ship of the Greenpeace environmental group in New Zealand.

International observers taken by surprise

Faw victory gives Iraqi troops a morale boost

By Ralph Joseph

FAW, Iraq, (UPI): Long-range artillery whistles into the Faw peninsula from the defeated but still defiant Iranians, whooshing overhead and crashing with a resounding boom 1 mile (1.6 km) or more to the rear.

"They are there, behind the trees," an Iraqi soldier said. "Keep down. They are watching."

"They have seen us. They are firing at us," an Iraqi officer said. Puffs of smoke could be seen from Iranian mortars. Some shells landed near the vehicles that brought visitors to Faw — journalists invited by Iraq to prove it had recaptured Faw April 17-18 to end more than two years of Iranian occupation.

Iraq's victory, its first in the Gulf war in six years, gave Iraqi troops a much-needed morale boost, said a Western diplomat in Baghdad.

But international observers, preoccupied with American-Iranian naval clashes in the Gulf April 18, were taken by surprise. There was skepticism about whether Iranian forces indeed had been pushed back across the Shatt Al Arab waterway.

"Until the journalists came, there was no direct proof Faw

was back in Iraqi hands," the Western diplomat said.

From Iraqi bunkers the visitors looked out across the Shatt Al Arab, about a mile wide here, not seeming to be a formidable obstacle to either side.

Binoculars showed date palm trees, dense and lush after recent spring rains. Thick undergrowth kept the Iranians hidden.

It was easy to see how the Iranians were tempted to cross waterway in February 1986. They stormed over pontoon bridges, surprised a handful of Iraqi defenders and seized about 50 square miles (80 sq km) of territory at the tip of the peninsula.

On April 17, the Iranians in turn were caught by surprise. Iraq launched a long-planned two-pronged offensive and drove them back.

Evidence of the Iranian rout shows in the deserted streets of what used to be Faw city. Signs in Persian painted on walls told of Iranian overconfidence.

"We are victorious," said one. Another said simply: "Blessed is martyrdom." Said a third: "Onward, to the destruction of the superpowers from their foundations up — Imam Khomeini."

But the face of Ayatollah Khomeini, painted large, was now daubed over with green

paint. Iraqi troops left only his black turban and part of his forehead visible.

"My unit blew up that bridge," said an Iraqi officer in camouflage commando uniform. He pointed at the remains of a bridge across the river.

Blown

"There were five of them. We blew up all except one, near Ras Al Bisha. Our President Saddam Hussein ordered us to leave that intact, so the Iranians could cross back. Then it was blown up by the Air Force."

Ras Al Bisha is the cape jutting into the Gulf at the tip of the peninsula. The visitors drove to the cape.

An Iranian howitzer hidden in the palms boomed every few minutes, its puffs of smoke revealing its position. Four or five Iraqi mortar shells slammed in quick succession into the sand on the far side of the river. The howitzer fell silent.

A foreign cargo vessel lying abandoned in the Shatt since September, 1980 looked derelict, rusting, its hull slightly askew on the riverbank. Two smaller vessels further down told of the chaos that hit shippers when the conflict erupted nearly eight years ago.

Caught in the crossfire, ship-

owners could not extricate their vessels. The Iranians could have freed some when they held both shores of the river along a 13-mile (21 km) stretch. But they obviously lacked the will, the diplomat in Baghdad said.

The Iranians felt strong and confident after taking Faw in 1986, the diplomat said. They struck west along the peninsula's coastal road, trying to reach the Kuwaiti border. The Iraqis stopped them.

They threatened the Iraqi naval base at Umm Qasr port, shelling it frequently from Faw. They set up coastal batteries and fired on Iraqi naval vessels in the Khor Abdullah waterway, south of Faw.

Threatening

They set up Silkwood missile launch sites on Faw, threatening Kuwaiti oil installations, and American warships protecting 11 reflagged Kuwaiti tankers.

In January, 1987 the Iranians felt strong enough to attack the city of Basra, either to capture it or cut off its road and rail links to Baghdad. But they did not strike from Faw. They attacked along the city's northern approaches, across the Iranian land border.

Again they were halted. "The Iraqis could not move against them in 1986, because

there were literally no roads in Faw then," the diplomat said. "The tanks, the personnel carriers, the artillery got bogged down in the mud."

But "the Iraqis have not been idle during these past two years," he said. "They did not mount a serious attack, but they drew up an attack plan in May 1986 and spent the rest of the time building a network of solid roads on the peninsula."

Evidence

The roads, all ending just behind the Iraqi lines, contributed to the April victory. A 3-mile (5 km) stretch between the two sides' former front lines showed what travel here used to be. Even four-wheel-drive vehicles slid and struggled through mud a foot deep in places.

Professional analysis of Iraq's victory must wait. Military analysts had not been taken on tours of Faw before the journalists' visits were through — all 500 of them. But skeptical Westerners thought they saw evidence of more than just a "brilliant Iraqi victory."

There were no signs of a mighty battle for Faw. Journalists were shown no mass graves. Iraqi journalists, the first to be taken to Faw, said they saw bulldozers burying some Iranian cor-

pses near their defence lines.

But bunkers shown to Westerners were strangely devoid of the tell-tale signs of occupation, like abandoned rations, opened cans, garbage. Some concrete bunkers looked brand new, as if they had never been used.

There was also something strange about the war booty captured by the Iraqi 7th Army Corps. The 75-odd tanks, 1,000 or so small arms, rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and other assorted equipment of war — all seemed strangely old and rusting.

So the questions arose: Did the Iranians really use these rusty weapons? Or were they merely dummies, in defence lines not fully manned? Iran has been reported to use dummy soldiers elsewhere along the front to give the impression of a bigger force than actually existed.

Further: Has there been a dramatic erosion of Iran's forces? Has Iran been bluffing recently about its strength along the 750-mile (1,200 km) front? "We have been told to show you around, not to tell you anything," said Lt. Gen. Hikmat Abdul Qader, deputy commander to "Iraq's Rommel," Lt. Gen. Maher Abdul Rashid, who brilliantly executed the attack plan to recapture Faw.



An Afghan refugee carries firewood for his family on April 2 at a camp in northern Pakistan, which provides a haven for those who have fled the nine-year-old war in their country. (Reuters wirephoto)

Afghan refugees watch and wait to return home

By William MacLean

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, (Reuters): As Soviet soldiers prepare to leave Afghanistan, refugees are devouring news from travellers returning from their embattled homeland to help them decide when to return.

In the Pakistan border town of Peshawar, refugees huddle close to Ali Sher Zaman, a turbaned trader visiting from Sarobi, near Kabul, as he tells them it depends on God how long the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah can stay in power.

He predicts fighting will continue in his area as long as Najibullah stays in office. Perhaps aware of a group of anti-government guerrillas standing nearby, he adds: "Of course, this cannot be long."

Shelling

In the headquarters of a Pakistan-based guerrilla group, officials hang on every word as Mohammad Musa describes heavy fighting in the eastern Afghanistan city of Herat, from where he has just returned.

Musa, a guerrilla fighter, says rebels armed with rockets are battling government troops

backed by tanks and Soviet aircraft in Herat.

"They are shelling us from the north, on the (Afghan-Soviet) border, and from the south," he says.

The guerrillas control most of Herat at night and are confident they can capture all of it before autumn, but they are short of food and medicine, Musa says.

"The Soviets used to keep their families in a hotel in the centre of the town. Now the women and children have all been moved to near the airport — this means they will go soon," he says.

For the three million Afghans in Pakistan, a return to the war-ravaged Central Asian nation could be fraught with danger.

Aid workers say that to avoid disaster an orderly return will take months and possibly years under the control of the Geneva-based United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The UNHCR is preparing a repatriation programme with Islamabad and the Kabul government as part of an Afghan settlement signed in Geneva on April 14.

Diplomats say UNHCR workers will enter Afghanistan after Soviet troops start to withdraw today to coordinate the programme.

But until that programme is under way, refugees are likely to rely mostly on grapevine news for word about when and by what route they can return, Afghan say.

Once families are tipped that Soviet troops have left their districts, they may send sons back in groups to take possession of abandoned property.

Any such disorganised return would mean refugees risking their lives as they walk through valleys and fields engulfed in battles between Muslim guerrillas and government forces.

In addition, mines planted by both sides have turned the country into a death trap for refugees unaware of booby-trapped areas, Pakistani authorities say.

"The mines are innumerable — like stars in the sky," said exiled Afghan journalist Ghulam Hazzat Kusbam.

Refugees staying abroad too long after the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops start pulling out risk having their property expropriated by others who return earlier, diplomats in Kabul say.

Since most of the refugees are peasant farmers, delaying their return would mean speeding another unproductive winter to exile while farms and fields neglected for years remain untended.

All these issues are likely to influence a further two million refugees in Iran and another one to 1.5 million who have moved to safer areas inside Afghanistan.

Refugees in Pakistan say their only reliable sources of news from home are relatives or fellow villagers who move regularly across the border.

The information provided by these travellers — mainly guerrillas and traders — assumes greater immediacy and importance with the imminent Soviet withdrawal.

Masood Khalili, a political officer of the Jamiat-Islami guerrilla group, says his family has urged him to take them home.

"But then we look at the practicalities — forget politics, forget the Geneva accord. The war has not ended, our wells have dried up and how can we be sure that if it goes wrong Pakistan will take us as refugees a second time?" he said.

"The picture for most refugees is blurred."

Shifting strategic balance in South Asia worries India

By Eileen Ar Powell

NEW DELHI, (AP): Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government is concerned that the strategic balance is shifting in South Asia and that India is losing its traditional edge.

The fears have prompted India to boost defence spending to a record Rs 130 billion (\$10 billion) this year and reopen discussion on whether India should develop nuclear weapons.

"We can't just keep escalating expenditures to meet the challenge," says Air Commodore Jasjit Singh, director of the government-funded Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses. "I don't want to see a nuclear India. But the most cost-effective solution is to go

forward with nuclear weapons."

India's nuclear test in 1974, but they acknowledge there is rising pressure for "the nuclear option," which Indian leaders have resisted since the country first tested a nuclear device in 1974.

Indian officials see danger on three fronts: Nuclear weapons in Chinese-controlled Tibet, newly acquired missiles in Saudi Arabia and the rivalry between India and Pakistan.

A chorus of headlines in Indian newspapers reflect the concerns: "Sino-Pakistan-Saudi threat to India," "The Afghan accord — dangerous implications," "Pakistan arms hurt peace process."

Not everyone agrees, however, that these factors, together or separately, threaten India's security.

Bhabani Sen Gupta, an analyst at the independent Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi, argues that nations' fears of foreign threats have become

"part of the international pathology of our times" and should not become the basis for national policy.

"You can't ignore the 'worst-possible' scenario," Sen Gupta said. "But to allow it to dominate decisions is not acceptable."

India traditionally has kept a wary eye on Pakistan; its archival on the subcontinent.

The two countries have fought three wars since their independence from Britain in 1947, and their troops still clash intermittently along their disputed border.

Aid

Persistent reports that Pakistan is close to developing a nuclear weapon, plus American plans to give the Islamic nation \$1.7 billion in military aid over the next six years, have prompted India to consider nuclear measures.

The United States gives predominantly Hindu India no military aid, although India buys some US defence technology and the two nations are to cooperate on military research.

With the signing last month of the UN-brokered accord on a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, Pakistan may be less distracted supporting the Afghan rebels and be able to turn more attention toward India, according to government officials and press speculation in New Delhi.

In addition, India is worried about weapons shifts on the other fronts — China to the north and Saudi Arabia to the west.

China has been moving nuclear-armed missiles into Tibet, which it has occupied for nearly three decades, according to Western press reports and Indian military experts. It also

has been beefing up its Army garrisons to tighten control over the former Buddhist kingdom.

Air Commodore Singh doesn't believe the Chinese moves are aimed directly at India, but, instead, to put China in a better bargaining position in possible international nuclear disarmament talks.

Disarmament

"If the United States and the Soviet Union eventually agree on disarmament, China at some stage will likely be brought in," Singh reasons. "If they can say that some of their missiles are in Tibet — and thus beyond the range of the Soviet border — the Soviets can't very well ask China to get rid of them."

On the other hand, Singh says, "they constitute a larger level of threat against South Asia."

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China has been moving nuclear-armed missiles into Tibet, which it has occupied for nearly three decades, according to Western press reports and Indian military experts. It also

Brazil marks 100 years of abolition

trial powerhouse in the developing world.

But the abolition century has focused attention on whether blacks have been left out of Brazil's heady economic progress and why they have made so few inroads on the white-dominated heights of power.

Black activists have been hammering home the message that society is laced with racism and that the end of slavery has hardly brought a promised land for blacks.

There are few prominent blacks in business or banking, no black generals in the Army, and only seven of the 559 members of the Brazilian Congress are black.

One of them, black congresswoman Benedita Da Silva, has introduced a bill that would toughen anti-discrimination laws by barring bail for offenders — a common escape hatch for people arrested for bigotry in housing or hiring.

Bill

"The bill will pass, but it's been difficult to convince people of the need for it. Most legislators do not recognise racism as a problem," Da Silva, who represents the leftist Workers Party and lives in a Rio shanty town, told Reuters.

Another of her initiatives would turn the crumbling remains of the famed "quilombos," rural hamlets where runaway slaves settled, into national monuments.

She seeks to incorporate these and other hills into Brazil's new constitution, which lawmakers are expected to complete by the end of next month.

But it will take more than the stroke of a pen to erase racism.

Last year a group of Rio lawyers founded an advocacy group called SOS racism, which gives free legal advice to blacks seeking redress under laws that broadly ban discrimination on the basis of "racial prejudice."

The group receives an average of two or three complaints a day but so far has won no convictions.

"We have come up against a wall of racism," said Regina Coeli, a lawyer for the group.

Discrimination

"Judges rarely admit that race plays a factor in discrimination and seek excuses by saying that the person was denied a job or housing because he was badly-dressed or not financially sound."

In one celebrated case in 1984, a black woman filed suit against a trendy Rio discotheque after it refused to let her past the door because of her colour.

She won the suit but the disco owner avoided a six-month jail term by putting up bail, as allowed by law.

After outraged black activists picketed the discotheque, the populist then-governor of Rio de Janeiro Leonel Brizola closed the discotheque to be ordered for three days as punishment.

Collins vs. Collins — a real-life soap saga

Joan takes a leaf out of Jackie's book

By Jody Byrne

HOLLYWOOD's richest and glitziest sisters Joan and Jackie Collins may have started a Dynasty on their own, but they still don't seem to have come to terms with each other's success.

For now Joan plans to move into Jackie's territory and publish a novel of her own.

Called Prime Time, the story of four ageing soap stars, it will net her at least \$500,000.

And Jackie, whose latest book is entitled Rock, Star, is less than pleased by her sister's literary effort.

It is hardly the first time the sisters have crossed swords.

Only recently they nearly came to blows when their father Joe died and Jackie said she was too upset to attend his funeral in Britain. Joan, meanwhile, thought she should have been there. But neither of them are unaware of the extra selling power a good fight can have.

Jackie, 45, says of the inevitable hype for her latest book: "The Battle of the Bitches Feuding will be along any day now."

She also says it does not bother her overmuch. It is all good sales-promoting stuff.

"Everybody wants to write a book once in their life," she says. "Joan does everything well. But I don't see her becoming a full-time novelist. I see it as a diversion for her."

But some Hollywood insiders say there is more to it than a public relations gimmick. For the two books were published by the same New York publisher, Simon and Schuster, and even had the same editor, Michael Korda.

Korda is said to have told friends of "a feud at some level. Jackie can't help but feel Joan is crowding her territory." And Jackie's agent Morton Janklow confirms the sisters "do have flake-ups."

Yet it would be surprising if there was no jealousy between Joan and Jackie. Both are high-profile, high-achieving sisters. And both have the same hot-headed temperament.

Jackie has confessed to cutting the hutions off Joan's out-

fits in her teens because she was jealous of her sister's glamour.

But Joan, who got into trouble at school for writing a steamy saga with her teachers as characters, did what she could to help establish Jackie. Then Jackie took a leaf out of Joan's book and wrote steamy sagas with her Hollywood neighbours in them... and watched the money roll in.

Jackie says: "When I was thrown out of school, I was brain-washed by my parents into thinking that I didn't have the qualifications to become a writer. So they said 'you're good-looking. Go to Hollywood like your sister'."

It seemed a good idea at the time and off I went. But making movies wasn't something I wanted or enjoyed doing. My own films weren't the greatest and if you blinked you missed me."

Later, when Jackie had given up acting — "I always saw myself as an out-of-work writer who was acting to make money" — she was able to repay Joan's generosity with the keys to her car and apartment, while Joan got her career back together after a mid-life crisis.

The films of Jackie's books, The Stud and The Bitch, released Joan into the sort of waters where big fish roles like Alexis in Dynasty were cast.

Joan admits that Jackie has "teased" her for her venture into novel-writing.

She says: "I tell her 'come off it. You started your career acting when I was already doing it. Why shouldn't I have a bash at a best-seller?'"

Battle Joan's book had made her \$2,000,000 before a single copy had been sold of the story of four actresses over 40. And the publishers have told her they want two more.

Jackie, though, has a head start, with 65,000 copies of her 11 books sold in 30 languages. She has just signed a multi-million dollar deal with the same publishers. She is not prepared to spell out the actual numbers, but describes the money she will earn as "mind-blowing."

In the latest round of the war of the Hollywood sisters, superstar Joan Collins has turned her well-manicured hand to writing a novel. And it hasn't gone down well with authoress Jackie. After all, she says, 'I'm not looking for a job in a soap-opera.'



Sisters Joan and Jackie Collins; both have the same hot-headed temperament.

But while they do battle in the best-seller lists, when it comes to love there is no contest.

Poor Joan is still trying to find a love that lasts after four marriages and four divorces, while Jackie, who was widowed once, has now been 20 years with the same man.

American Oscar Lerman encouraged Jackie's writing ambitions even before they married in 1967. Her first novel, The World is Full of Married Men, was born a year later.

Joan, meanwhile, has got a steamy autobiography, Past Imperfect, out of her attempts

to find happiness in marriage. Her first try was with matinee idol Maxwell Reed (although she says he raped her on their first date), then with actor, Anthony Newley, and next with film-maker Ron Kass.

Her fourth brief venture into wedlock, with Peter Holm 14 years her junior, lasted just 13 months. The divorce hearing made prime time television, almost as much as Dynasty did.

There have also been liaisons with Sydney (son of Charlie) Chaplin, Harry Belafonte, Nick (son of Liz Taylor's ex-husband Nick) Hilton, Warren Beatty and Ryan O'Neal. She turned down a date with

Richard Burton and for a time received a dozen red roses daily from ex-King Farouk.

In 1952, she was voted the most beautiful girl in the world. Thirty-odd years later, she was chosen as the sexiest woman.

Jackie, on the other hand, says her own life is tame compared with her books.

She says: "I played the field before I was married. So now when I see a nice-looking guy I don't fancy him — I just want to write about him."

"I never think to compare what I write with my own life. I'm a moral, private, quiet person."

Being on the fringe of Joan's life did give her a wonderful start for her writing career, though. People dismissed her as "just Joan's little sister" leaving her unobserved to do the observing.

It must nuzzle that in some countries — including her native England — she is still regarded as "Joan's little sister." But in Hollywood, where she now lives and works, she is as well-known as actress Joan — if not better known.

She behaves less "Hollywood" than Joan. She drives the same beat up Chevy she has had for five years, answers her own door and telephone and cleans her own floors. "By the standards here, I'm what's seen as eccentric," she says.

Difference

It is five years since Jackie, whose husband Oscar, co-owns the Trump nightclubs in London and Los Angeles went to America, with their daughters Tiffany, 20 and Rory, 18. Jackie also has a daughter, Tracy, from her first marriage to an older man who died of a drugs overdose.

Joan is a mother of three as well. Her daughter Tara, now 25 and son, Sacha, who is 23, are Newley's children. Daughter Katy, now 14, is Kass's child.

The most recent public difference of opinion between Joan and Jackie was over a family affair — the funeral of their father, Joe, who was 85.

Joan, who flew back from a holiday in the South of France

for the private service, hoped that Jackie would fly over from Los Angeles to pay tribute to the man who launched dozens of other show biz careers besides his own daughter's.

Joe discovered Shirley Bassey, was the first man to put the Beatles on in London, and founded a repertory company at Maidstone just to give Joan her first theatre job making tea and shifting scenery.

Joan said: "I hope Jackie is able to attend but it is up to her."

But Jackie decided she was too upset to face the flight and funeral. She sent a simple wreath with the message: "We love you, Jackie and Oscar."

Beside it at the graveside was Joan's huge bouquet of roses and a card: "Goodbye, Daddy — I will remember you with love. Always, Joan."

While Jackie grieved alone, Joan looked the part — in a black skirt just above the knees, dramatic large-brimmed hat and fur-lined coat.

But if there is one thing Joan Collins must envy Jackie it is not having to work as Joan does at her looks. Staying glamorous in front of close-up cameras becomes harder for Joan every year.

Exercise, diet and fanatical attention to hair and make-up are a 24-hour-a-day job.

Jackie, on the other hand, does not exercise except swimming in the pool in her garden, has not worn a skirt for ten years, and does her own hair about once a month. She has simplified her fashion requirements to black trousers and men's jackets and just varies her tops.

With every passing year, Jackie's relaxed regime must appeal more and more to Joan, who has so far managed to stay ahead of fashion. But it is bound to have occurred to her that as a best-selling author she could still have a bank balance like a telephone number without all the work.

But possibly the biggest reason for Joan's desire to write could be to form a new career before the Dynasty pay cheques dry up.



Actress Joan Collins: 'Why shouldn't I have a bash at a best-seller?'



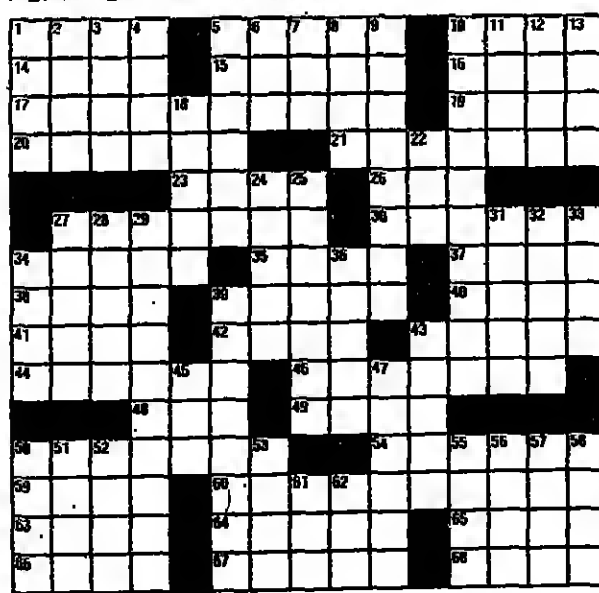
Authoress Jackie Collins: 'I'm just a high-school dropout who eavesdrops.'

If she hits the bull's-eye as her sister Jackie did she will never need to act again.

Jackie is now so powerful that she is to be executive producer of the mini-series of her book, Hollywood Husbands with a final say on cast-

ing. She wants Elizabeth Taylor for the female lead. But she would settle for Joan if Liz cannot or will not play the part. Jackie takes it all in her modest stride. "I'm just a high school dropout who eavesdrops," she says.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



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| 54 Old World finch | | |
| 59 Stay or atop starter | | |
| 60 Sir Francis Drake and colleagues | | |
| 63 Till the soil | | |
| 64 Tyne Daley role | | |
| 65 Karamina | | |
| 66 Associate | | |
| 67 Gives off | | |
| 68 Equal | | |

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ALDA CADRE TACT
FIRS ERROE ECHO
AMOS DROPANCHOR
REPUTE PESO EWE
BRA WIOEMS
FREEBORN ENOED
RAH SPATES IRAE
EVIL ETHEL POSE
RENE CHERUB PER
EDDAS BIGAPPLE
PURDUE ROE
OUR LAIC ABODES
DROPKICKER OOTE
OANA SKEET LUNA
SLAW ESTEE ETAL

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
YOU BE THE JUDGE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 9 3
♥ 8 6 4 3 2
♦ 9 6 5
♣ 4 2

WEST
♠ 7 6 2
♥ J 10 9
♦ Q 7 3
♣ A Q 10 8

EAST
♠ 4
♥ K Q 7 5
♦ J 10 8 2
♣ 9 7 5 3

SOUTH
♠ A K J 10 8 5
♥ A
♦ A K 4
♣ K J 6

The bidding:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♣

"Your Honor:
"What we are seeking is not financial compensation, but a 'Cease and Desist' order. Mr. North, who we acknowledge is an accomplished bridge player, maligns my client, South, at every opportunity. He goes around the club calling my client a 'trick-reduction expert,' all because of this hand."
"After a normal auction, South became declarer at four spades. He won the opening heart lead perforce, crossed to the nine of trumps

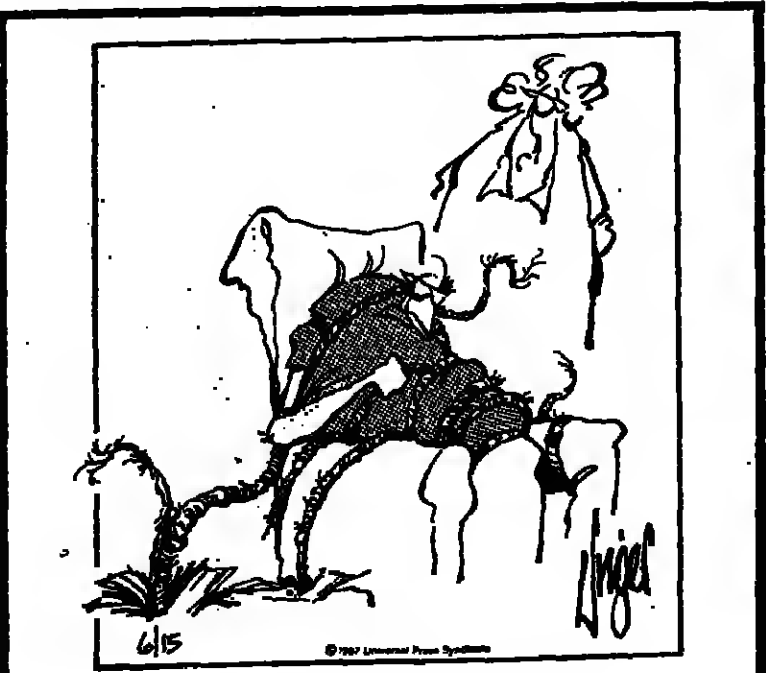
and took a losing club finesse. He won the trump return in dummy and tried a club to the king. That lost to West's ace, and the trump return removed dummy's last fang. As a result, declarer still had to lose a trick in each minor suit for down one.

"You must surely agree that South was a victim of bad luck. Both club honors were wrong, trumps did not break and West, the defender with the long trump, also was the one who held the ace of clubs. We ask for judgment in our favor."

"My client, Mr. North, feels that anything he says about South is complimentary, considering the way he played this hand. He started out with nine tricks in top cards. Once the defenders did not start by leading trumps, there was no way he could be stopped from scoring a club ruff for his fulfilling trick."

"After winning the ace of hearts, South should simply have led a club from hand, then led a club again when he regained the lead. The contract would then have been iron-clad, since declarer's last club could be ruffed in dummy. What South did was to reduce his tricks from 10 to nine!"

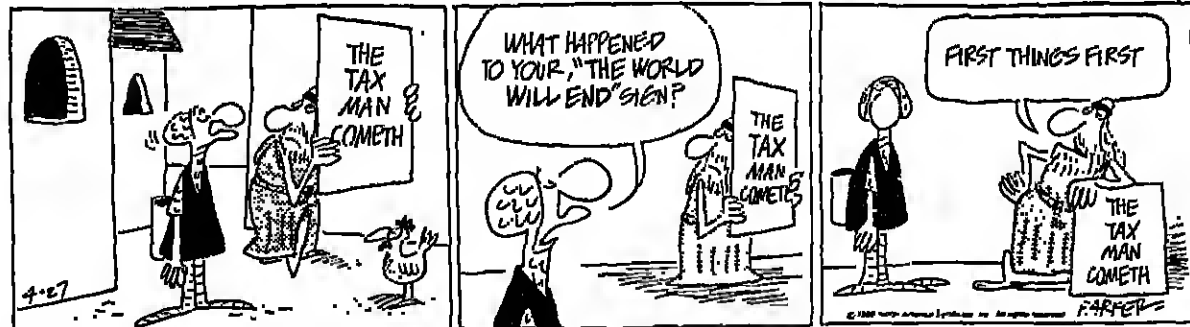
"Case dismissed. North's description of South is accurate, not slanderous!"



"I told you not to plant it too close to the house."

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

<p>Aries (March 20 - April 18)</p> <p>You will be able to do something you have long wanted to do. You should take your mind off work for the day. Do not try to attend to too many things all at once. Be moderate.</p>	<p>Cancer (June 21 - July 21)</p> <p>Your friends will stand by you and you will be able to help them too. You should not think you have all the time in the world. Do not take too much for granted. Be prudent.</p>	<p>Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)</p> <p>A matter that has been bothering you will now be resolved. Make sure you do not get your best clothes dirty. You should have a good laugh at yourself. Be frugal.</p>	<p>Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)</p> <p>You should not allow something which needs to be done regularly to fall behind. Something you intended to do will not now prove possible. You should not be in such a hurry nor should you jump to conclusions. Be less impatient.</p>
<p>Taurus (April 19 - May 19)</p> <p>The moon's less favourable influence will tend to make you rather irritable. However Mars' better influence will help you to make up your mind. You should try to keep things simple. Be malleable.</p>	<p>Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)</p> <p>Avoid being jealous and resentful. You should take a little better care of your health. Make sure you have your facts right. Be a little more patient.</p>	<p>Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)</p> <p>You will tend to be a little too self-conscious. You will have a need to relax and should do so. Try to have a little more confidence in yourself. Be less smug.</p>	<p>Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)</p> <p>Some small matter will prove to be more of a nuisance than first seemed likely. You should avoid spending too much time and energy on it however. Give others a chance. Be reasonable.</p>
<p>Gemini (May 20 - June 20)</p> <p>You should not let your sense of humor get out of practice. You will be able to make good progress with a personal project. Something you had feared might not now happen. Be sensible.</p>	<p>Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)</p> <p>You should not think you have nothing more to learn. Do not try to do by force what you have not been able to do by persuasion just now.</p>	<p>Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)</p> <p>You will be better able to see the way ahead. An obstacle will not be as formidable as first seemed to be the case. Read a letter again before despatching. Be cordial.</p>	<p>Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)</p> <p>Circumstances are more in your favour than seems to be the case. If you are invited you should not stay too long. Think a little longer before you make up your mind. Be amenable.</p>

SNIPPETS

Aquino donates one month's salary

PRESIDENT Aquino donated one month's salary—P25,000—to start the 1988 education fund drive of Gintuang Tagumpay Foundation of the Philippines.

The President made the donation during the launching of the fund drive at the Ceremonies Hall of Malacanang last Friday.

The donation was received by Amelita Ramos, wife of Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos and charter chairman of the foundation's 1988-89 board of trustees, and Gintuang Tagumpay president Edward Ferrera.

Before the new Constitution increased her salary to P25,000, the President had donated P8,000 to the foundation.

The fund drive is expected to benefit some 1,020,000 physically and mentally-handicapped Filipinos.

Bill increases penalties for crooks

SENATOR Neptali Gonzales filed recently Senate Bill No. 365 increasing the penalties for direct and indirect bribery involving government officials and employees.

In his explanatory note to the bill, Senator Gonzales said a public office is a public trust. It is a basic concept known to all public offices and yet there are still many in the government service who forget their oath of office.

The bill increases penalties on direct bribery where public officers agree to perform acts constituting a crime in consideration of any office, promise, gift or present, from prison or correctional in its minimum and medium period to prison mayor in its medium and maximum periods and a fine not less than the value of and not more than three times the value of the gift.

In indirect bribery cases, penalty is increased from arresto mayor in its minimum and medium periods to prison correctional in its maximum period.

In both cases, Gonzales further said, the culprit shall suffer the penalty of absolute perpetual disqualification from public office and without benefit of probation.

Beheaded Filipinos identified

THE Philippine Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia has identified the two Filipino contract workers who were beheaded recently in Dammam for robbery and murder.

Ambassador Maurya Tamano said Francisco Pare and Bienvenido Cabigting had robbed a jewelry store in Dammam where four other Filipinos worked.

Pare and Cabigting had been arrested and stabbed Fernando Dizon, Angelito Barlas, Lelardo Manalansan and Antonio Candilaria to death, Tamano said.

The Saudi government told the Philippine ambassador that the beheading was done to serve as a lesson to other Filipino workers who might commit the same crime.

Bill approves free high school education

THE senate unanimously approved a bill providing for free high school education to some 5.7 million students throughout the country.

Nineteen Senators voted "Yes" for the bill, one abstained and three were marked absent. Sen. Jose Lim Jr. explaining his vote said, "The poor and disadvantaged need not only free education. More importantly, they require quality education for them to be sufficiently literate and vocationally functional to compete in the employment market."

Stevie Wonder due in Manila

STEVIE Wonder, the world-famous blind musician, composer and singer, has expressed interest in meeting some disabled Filipinos and persons dedicated to working for the disabled when he comes to Manila to hold special live concerts on May 13-14, 7 pm, at the Ultra Football Field.

He is scheduled to meet with officials of the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons led by Chairman Mita Pardo de Tavera and Executive Director Art Borja for an informal orientation and getting-acquainted session which will touch on disability issues in the Philippines.



Ferdinand Marcos is comforted by a supporter as he and his wife Imelda, take part in a memorial service in Honolulu for his mother who died recently.

Marcos playing last card

By Rey T. Fajardo
Chairman, LP Young Turks

THE sudden death of Dona Josefa Edralin Marcos may become the focal point for American authorities to step into the continuing controversy surrounding the return of Mr. Marcos.

This development no doubt will put their campaign for the retention of the military bases in jeopardy because above all the supporters and sympathizers of Mr. Marcos will take it against the US if he is unable to come home.

It must be pointed out, that the kidnapping of Mr. Marcos by the US is already a matter of public knowledge, especially when Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega and US Presidential aspirant Michael Dukakis openly mentioned the fact on international broadcast media.

Locally, the position taken by Mrs. Cory Aquino disallowing the former President's return on national security grounds in effect renders as a big lie the government claim to stability, a return to democracy, and an administration adhering to Christian principles through reconciliation.

Despite the decision, we expect that Marcos, playing his last card and with his back against the wall, will do the trick for him to come home.

Falling in this, we can expect unending troubles which may force the resignation of Mrs. Aquino, thereby paving the way for a snap election.

This development also paves the way for the martyrdom of Mr. Marcos and the situation is ripe for him to dramatically deliver the secret message which can damage US interest.

At this stage, signs are clear that something will break soon since all the parties involved — Cory, Marcos and the US — are in a no-win situation with very few options open.

We have talked with Gemmo Trinidad, spokesman of Mr. Marcos, regarding the latest Marcos statement that he would exhaust all possibilities to return, a message pregnant with meaning.

It must be pointed out that if Marcos has failed to do something drastic in the last two years, it has been due to extreme US pressure on both parties.

This time, Mr. Marcos will not agree to a continued exile in Hawaii. We are privy to information on what he is capable of doing.

We are sure the US will intervene to the grumbling satisfaction of the parties; otherwise we will witness a scenario which may rock the very foundation of Philippine society.

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Subtle shifts in Philippine diplomacy

By Rene Pastor

ON the surface, there's no shift in the pro-Western, pro-US stance of the Philippine government in its foreign policy.

Whatever neutralist sentiment there is in the Department of Foreign Affairs is overshadowed by the pervasive presence of the US bases here, exerting their influence on the main players in the Philippine political arena.

Despite detente with Moscow and Beijing, relations with the Socialist bloc remain cordial, neither warm nor cold, just a frigid sort of inbetween.

A conference of "newly democratic countries" June 3-6 being heavily promoted by Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus is introducing subtle shifts in the discreet wording of Philippine diplomatic relations.

The Sandinista government in Nicaragua, persona non grata, reviled in Washington as a Marxist government, and plagued by

CIA-funded Contras, is being invited to attend the conference.

Ambassador Emmanuel Pelaez recently "got a call" from Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Jorge Chamorro in Washington "that they are interested in the meeting" and the request was sent all the way up to President Aquino, according to Foreign Affairs sources.

Ms Aquino approved the invitation, a source said.

A diplomat in the department claimed with some conviction that "there is no significance in the invitation to Nicaragua. We just feel that it should be invited after the peace settlement worked out there by President (Oscar) Arias" of Costa Rica made it "a newly restored democracy."

The diplomat conceded, however, that the "United States will read something into the invitation, especially since the bases review is being held at the same time the Nicaraguans will be here."

Manglapus had maintained a stony silence whenever foreign affairs reporters would ask him about the Sandinistas getting an invitation to the conference of newly democratic nations.

He would reel off Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Spain, Portugal, Greece, El Salvador and Honduras among other countries, complete with the Spanish accent, but "never" Nicaragua.

Another diplomat admitted the invitation is a "signal" to the US and to other foreign countries that the country wants real "equidistance" with the superpowers.

This diplomat added that the invitation sent to Peruvian President Alan Garcia "reflects an interest on our side on how they handled their debt problem and what lessons we can learn from them."

So far, eight countries have confirmed their attendance in June. They are Nicaragua, Peru, Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala, Spain, Portugal and Greece, Uruguay and Bolivia will probably make it.

One observer commented acidly that all the countries coming "have all suffered at the hands of the United States."

There is no word from Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Honduras.

Sources in the department said El Salvador and Honduras may be doubtful participants because they have their own differences with the Sandinistas and may not want to share the conference table with them.

The Salvadorean often accused the Sandinistas of helping support and arm the Faribundo Marti guerrillas in their country; the Hondurans have their own problems with Nicaraguan hot-pursuit operations against the Contras into their territory.

Associated Editors

Bar girls take to the streets

By Jun Alano

IT was one rally every riot policeman would have loved to be assigned to, even minus his truncheon and shield.

The bar girls had earlier threatened to parade naked on the streets to protest the continuous raids conducted by the police. But WPD chief Brig. Gen. Alfredo Lim warned that he would send nude anti-riot policemen if the girls would go "bold."

But perhaps intimidated by Lim's "counter-threat", the girls of Ermita went to join their protest march last week, pretty well-covered for the occasion.

Thousands of bar girls and workers from Manila's liveliest pleasure district assembled at the corner of del Pilar and Sta. Monica, chanting "Mabuhay ang Ermita," they proceeded towards the Western Police District's Station No. 5 on United Nations Avenue before marching on towards City Hall.

Led by Gilbert Compuesto, chairman of the Ermita Workers Association, the rallyists denounced city officials for not putting a stop to the night-raids being conducted by Station 5 policemen under Lt. Col. Robert Barbers.

The marchers, mostly women with such interesting names as Magnolia, Lolot and Mommy Gigi, were dancing on the streets and some were even drinking beer as they held their protest march.

They were joined by scores of foreigners who gave the rallyists "moral" support. And among their most vocal foreign supporters were two self-confessed West German prostitutes, who said, "We're fighting for the rights of prostitutes."

The rallyists who marched to the beat of drums, ended their march at Liwasang Bonifacio, where several speakers represented in the different "dependents" of the tourist trade took turns in assailing the raids. They said the continuing raids have severely affected their livelihood.

Aside from the dwindling number of tourists patronizing the bars of Ermita, the bar girls also protested the harsh treatment given to them by the police and even some newsmen covering the raids.

The rally leaders vowed to conduct more mass actions if the government would not do something to alleviate the plight of some 45,000 tourist belt workers.

that heavier penalty be imposed on drunken husbands, and husbands holding positions of authority, especially those employed to maintain peace and order. Any husband violating the provisions of B1 284 will be penalized with a fine of P5,000 and a prison term of one year.

We believe a heavier penalty should be meted out to the guilty party to prevent such incidents, which not only hurt the defenseless wife but set an ugly example to the children.

Even with a clear law, the purpose of the measure may still not be achieved since suffering wives usually do not complain unless the physical violence against them has reached grave proportions. Many wives are intimidated by the power, influence, material wealth of their male spouse. Wives also continue taking the physical abuses for emotional reasons, or to avoid the scandal the whole incident will bring to the family, especially the children.

Perhaps one would comment, why the need for a wife beating law in a supposedly Christian nation? A family life education programme including subjects like the dignity of the human person, alternative actions to express anger and hostility, etc. is needed to prevent conjugal conflicts from escalating into violent proportions.

Help for overseas Filipinos

FILIPINOS who run into trouble abroad can now look up to the Filipino Overseas Workers and Emigrants Recognition (POWER) Foundation for assistance.

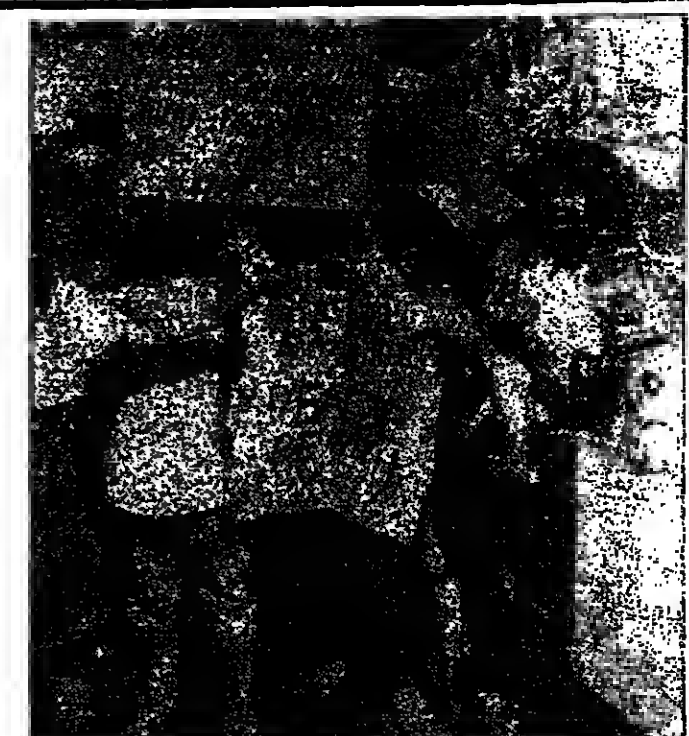
This was disclosed by Thelma Rondon, POWER Foundation chairperson, who said that the foundation has formed a special task force to assist overseas Filipinos in distress.

Rondon said that the task force is headed by lawyer Serafin Rivera, the foundation vice president for legal affairs, who recently succeeded in securing the release of five merchant marines illegally detained in Indonesia.

To raise funds for the task force, the foundation will hold a benefit premier of "Nuts", a Warner Brothers release starring Oscar award winning performers Barbara Streisand and Richard Dreyfus on May 3 at Rizal theatre.

Rondon and Ener Sampang, POWER Foundation president, called on civic-minded citizens and organisations to help the task force and the preparation for an international convention of overseas Filipinos in December.

Sampang said POWER Foundation will request President Aquino to declare December as Overseas Filipinos Month to attract more Filipinos abroad to visit the country.



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P4.2 billion boost for Philippines

THE Philippine government will receive from Japan and Italy a P4.2-billion grant that will be used to fund various barangay projects.

This was reported by Local Government Secretary Luis T. Santos who said that the grant does not require counterpart funding.

Normally, Santos said, the local governments set aside a counterpart fund which is the peso equivalent of the foreign grant before they can use the money for the implementation of a project.

Japan has reportedly set aside \$170 million while Italy has pledged \$30 million. This will be used for the construction of a water system for the whole of Mindanao.

The balance, according to Santos, will be used to finance infrastructure projects in the countryside and the construction of training facilities for local executives in the three island provinces.

Santos said that the local government department will put up its own engineering audit team to avoid misuse of funds and unwarranted delay in the implementation of government projects.

He said that when he took over the DLG, the implementation of a number of foreign-assisted projects had been delayed for three or four years due to non-availability of funds or red tape.

Of course, it's a different matter if what Marcos family members being allowed to come home and see Nana Sepa before she is buried is something the family can take up privately with Malacanang. The mounting of noisy crowds and the issuing of press releases won't help convince the government to relent.

On the contrary, these pressure tactics merely serve to harden the position of the Aquino administration.

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FM can return, ... if he wants to

By Federico D. Pascual Jr

POOR old Nana Sepa Marcos is being used as a political football.

And to think that until she died the other day at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, the 95-year-old mother of the deceased ruler may not even be aware that her favourite son Andy had been flown away and kept by the Americans in Hawaii.

A notorious PR man whose forte is "dirty tricks" ever used the comatose old woman by making her appear to have issued a press statement from her hospital bed about her wanting to see her son again.

A press release was composed by the PR agent and Nana Sepa's fingerprint affixed to it. It's ghoulish.

And now, with Nana Sepa's death as the knot of contention, there is this tug-of-war between those who want the deceased president brought home and those who would keep him out.

Marcos loyalist may want to be a little respectful to the dead by not using the poor woman to gain political and propaganda leverage. Leave the dead alone. Cut out the noise and the demagogic spectacle.

SAN Miguel Beer swarmed all over the court in the second half to trip Alaska Milk. 110-89, even as Great Taste Instant Milk reaffirmed its mastery over Ginebra in the PBA Open Conference semifinals at the ULTRA.

Bernard Fabiosa scored two free throws and Fortunato Co hauled down a crucial rebound in the last 20 seconds as the Milk Masters won over the Ginebras for the third straight time, 113-108.



THIS is the scene overlooking a local furniture store which collapsed on Thursday in central Mexico. Rescue workers have taken 53 survivors and 14 dead from the remains of the building. (Reuter wirephoto)



THE widow of British spy Kim Philby bids a last farewell to her husband at his funeral in Moscow. (Reuter wirephoto)



A SEA of crosses is lifted to the sky to greet Pope John Paul II upon his arrival at the El Trompillo airport in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, on Friday. Thousands of people streamed in from the countryside to see the Pope. (Reuter wirephoto)



ROYAL mother-to-be, the Duchess of York, appears at the Royal Windsor Horse Show on Friday. She is expecting her first child later this year. (Reuter wirephoto)



ISRAELI police escort Palestinian men on the Temple Mount as they are taken from the mount under arrest. Israeli police clashed on Friday with hundreds of demonstrating Palestinians following Friday prayers at Al Aqsa mosque. Nineteen Palestinians were arrested. (Reuter wirephoto)



AN Amel fighter screams with excitement after firing a rocket-propelled grenade at Hezbollah positions yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)



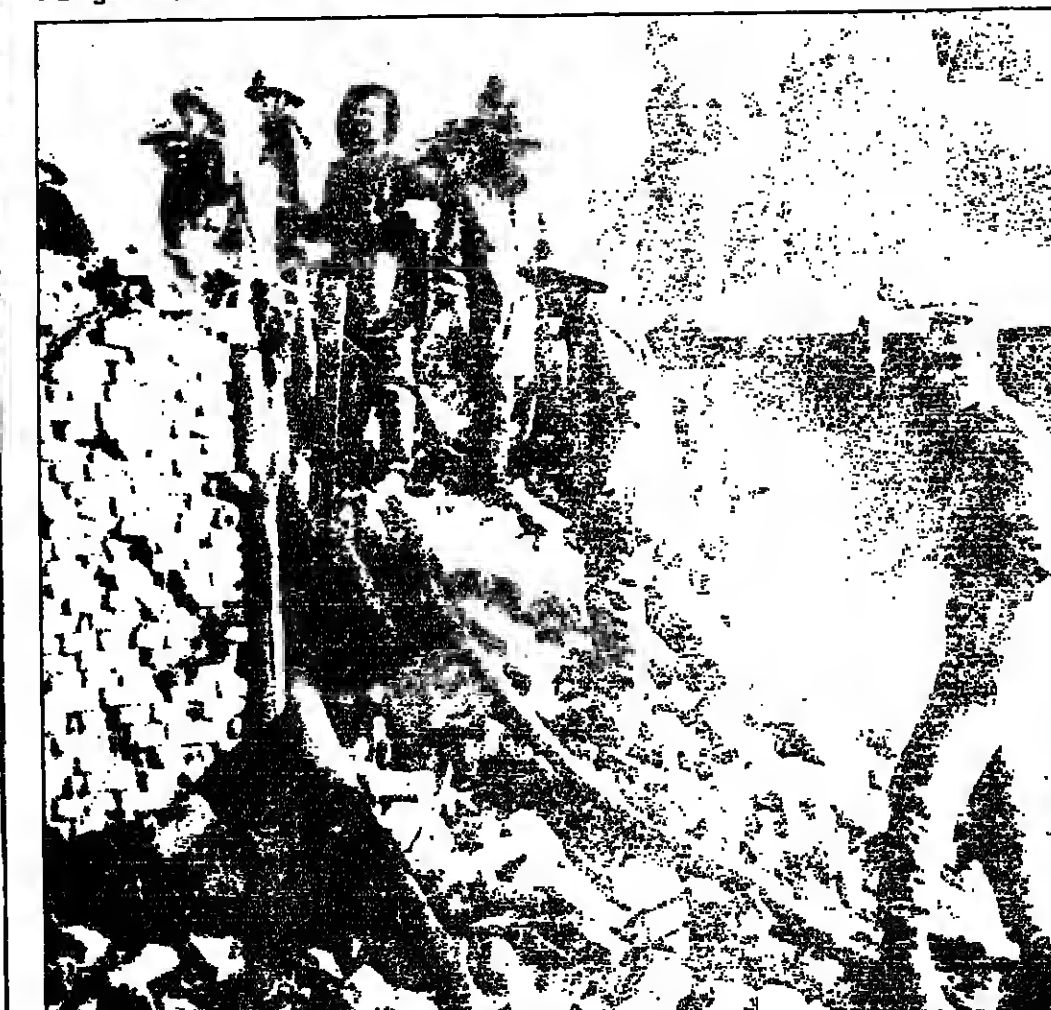
FRENCH President Francois Mitterrand is surrounded by Prime Minister Michel Rocard (left), Finance Minister Pierre Berégovoy and Foreign Affairs Minister Roland Dumas (right) during the family picture of the new government, outside the Elysee Palace on Friday. (Reuter wirephoto)



GREEK Culture Minister Melina Mercouri meets Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal during an official visit to Ankara. (Reuter wirephoto)



TALKS to end war in Angola between South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha (right) and Angolan Justice Minister Fernando Franco Van Dunem (left) ended on Friday with both parties agreeing that there is a willingness on the part of the two governments to address the issues. The talks were hosted by the Congolese Foreign Minister Antoine Ndinge Oba, centre. (Reuter wirephoto)



RESCUE workers comb the smouldering ruins of a house destroyed when a truck bomb exploded in downtown Kabul yesterday, killing as many as eight and injuring 20 people. (Reuter wirephoto)

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Asean told to forge closer economic ties to safeguard its future

KUALA LUMPUR, May 14. (Kuna): Asean, the grouping of Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore and Brunei has been reminded of the urgency to force a closer economic cooperation to safeguard the region's economic future in the face of the realignment of economic powers.

The chairman of the Group 14 (G-14) working committee, Paul Leong, told a news conference here today that in view of this economic configuration and other uncertainties in international trade, it is of utmost importance that Asean now expedite regional economic cooperation to increase its bargaining and economic strength.

He said while the European Economic Community will become a common market by 1992, the United States is planning a free trade area with Canada and is also developing a closer economic tie-up with Mexico.

Australia and New Zealand also appear to be moving closer towards economic cooperation, he added.

Stressed

Leong, who was a former Malaysian Primary Industries Minister stressed that all these configurations mean these major blocs would become more than a force to be reckoned with in future.

As such, he added, it is one of utmost importance that Asean should emerge as a strong regional bloc to enhance its bargaining power and ensure its own economic survival.

The G-14 working committee, essentially a private sector initiative and so called as it comprises two representatives from each Asean member country plus a chairman and vice-chairman, was formed under the auspices of the Asean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Asean-CCI).

The committee is an extension of the G-14 which was formed in October 1986 to draw up recommendations for accelerating the progress of economic cooperation within Asean.

Four banks to act as agents for trade with Iran

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, May 14. (AP): Four Malaysian banks have formed a consortium to buy Malaysian goods for export to Iran, with collection to take place through the Iranian central bank, an Iranian embassy official said yesterday.

Syed A. Rezvani, second secretary at the Iranian embassy in Kuala Lumpur, told reporters that the consortium plan is aimed at boosting trade between the two Muslim countries. The final agreement will be signed between the central banks of the two countries in June, he said.

Muhyiddin Ismail and Noor Mohamed Yakob of Bank Negara, Malaysia's central bank, visited Tehran last week to work out the details, Rezvani said.

Meanwhile, Iranian ambassador to Malaysia Reza Moshed Zadeh said his government decided last week to lift the ban on the importation of palm oil.

Malaysia is one of the world's largest producers and exporters of palm oil and has been urging Iran to lift the ban for many years.

Venezuela to invest \$12b in oil industry

CARACAS, May 14. (Opene): Venezuela will invest more than \$12 billion in its oil industry during the 1988-93 period.

According to an announcement by Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA), the state oil company, investment this year will reach \$2 billion.

The figure will increase to three billion in 1989, three billion again in 1990, two billion in 1991, one billion in 1992 and one billion in 1993.

Under a diversification programme, PDVSA will increase the use of natural gas in Venezuela's industrial and petrochemical sectors in order to free more oil for exports.

The company disposes off 500,000 bpd of its oil overseas through joint-venture arrangements with companies in the United States, West Germany and Sweden.

The immediate goal is to increase the figure to 700,000 bpd.

PDVSA's American, West German and Swedish partners will invest about \$200 million in the Venezuelan oil industry.

Wall Street's contrary optimists

Bright outlook for stock market

NEW YORK, May 14. (AP): If you apply an old Wall Street principle known as contrary opinion, the outlook for the stock market would seem to be pretty healthy.

Hardly anybody these days is able to work up much enthusiasm either for stocks or for the business outlook over the next year or two.

And from long experience, students of the investment scene will testify, whenever a large majority of people agree on what the financial markets are likely to do, they are probably wrong.

The extent of the pessimism now holding sway among investment managers, analysts and economists shows up in the results of the latest poll of more than 300 "decision makers" conducted by Richard Hoey at Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc.

For the stock market, Hoey

reports, the bears outnumbered the bulls by 2-to-1. On bonds, the radio was an even more lopsided 3-to-1 in favour of the pessimists.

Evidence

Anecdotal evidence abounds to support that heavy negative bias. The talk on Wall Street these days is that interest rates have nowhere to go but up.

And the slow and halting recovery in stock prices since the crash last year is just about universally labelled a "bear market rally" that will soon run its course.

"The most comforting thing about today's experience is that many analysts believe the stock market rally cannot be sustained," observed Vincent Agnew at CIT Investment Management Group, a firm that manages more than \$2.5 billion.

"The reason this is comforting is because whenever the crowd is anticipating one set of events, the

market has been known to do the opposite."

As simple as contrary opinion sounds, though, it can be very difficult to practise. For one thing, in trying to determine what the real consensus is in order to go against it, you sometimes have to separate what people say from what they really feel.

Sentiment

Lately, for example, some standard statistical measures of investor sentiment suggest stocks have not been beaten down to bargain basement extremes like those seen on some past occasions.

Price-earnings ratios of several leading market indicators lately have hovered between 14-to-1 and 15-to-1. The multiple is down from better than 20 last year, but still

nowhere near the single-digit levels it reached at times in the 1970s and early 1980s.

The market did not do much for optimistic "contrarians" in the past week. The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials closed Friday at 1,990.55, down 16.91 points from the week before.

The New York Stock Exchange composite index fell 58 to 145.30; the Nasdaq composite index for the over-the-counter market 6.94 to 372.48, and the American stock exchange market value index 3.87 to 297.94.

Volume on the Big Board averaged 153.07 million shares a day, against 151.13 million the week before.

The market's weakest moments in the past week did not exactly occur in a vacuum. Major banks raised their prime lending rates from 8.5 per cent to 9 per cent.

What's more, a good many traders might have been reluctant to bid aggressively for stocks before the government's monthly report on international trade, scheduled to be released this Tuesday.

Commentary

"So we go on to the next number, the dreaded trade statistic," observed Michael Sherman at Shearson Lehman Hutton in his latest market commentary.

"Is this the way we were supposed to invest, hanging from week to week on every flick of data? Can't we find some more stable criteria on which to judge the direction of the markets?"

"We think that if you step back a little bit, you can. To our mind, the market today is dominated by fear, and that fear will ultimately prove overdrawn. Upon such realisation will come an improvement in stock and bond prices."

Economy has a good deal of momentum, says Volcker

Bankers see further rises in US rates

NEW YORK, May 14. Bankers predicted further boosts in the prime lending rate at US banks, after major American banks raised their prime lending rate to 9 percent from 8 1/2 percent, the first increase since October, according to the Wall Street Journal.

"There are more to come. The only question is the timing," said Robert G. Dederick, executive vice-president at Northern Trust Co. in Chicago.

Federal Reserve officials, worried that inflation pressures are beginning to accelerate, are likely to tighten credit even further over the next few months, according to Dederick and other analysts. "The Fed wants to make sure the economy doesn't overheat," Dederick said.

But Federal Reserve Board Governor Wayne Angell hinted broadly on Thursday that the Fed may not further tighten monetary policy as many market observers expect. In a speech, Angell said "those that are certain of what the Federal Reserve's next step might be very well be mistaken."

Angell's remarks came as the government concluded its three-day, approximately \$26 billion quarterly financing. In the sale on Thursday, the Treasury sold about \$8.5 billion of new 30-year bonds at an average annual yield of 9.17 per cent.

Prime rate changes usually lag well behind other interest-rate moves. While not important to the US's largest companies, which have other sources of credit, the prime still commands great attention because banks use it as a base rate on loans to many small and medium-size businesses.

It is also used as a benchmark for many types of consumer loans, including auto loans and home-equity loans.

Increase

The prime rate increase, which was initiated by Chase Manhattan Bank, had been widely expected because of recent increases in the banks' own borrowing costs. Moreover, the Federal Reserve this week tightened credit a little more, pushing up short-term interest rates, in an effort to show its determination to combat

inflation. The federal funds rate, which banks charge each other on overnight loans, has climbed above 7 per cent from about 6 1/2 per cent to 6 5/8 per cent in late March.

When the spread between the prime rate and federal funds narrows to 1-1/2 percentage points or less, "banks typically raise their (lending) margins," said David Jones, senior vice-president and economist at Aubrey G. Lantson & Co. By Tuesday, for instance, the difference between federal funds and prime had narrowed to about 1.4 percentage points.

Chase's move was quickly followed by Citibank, Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co., Chemical Bank, Bankers Trust Co., First National Bank of Chicago and Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh, among others.

Riggs National Bank in Washington raised its prime rate to 8 3/4 per cent from 8 1/2 per cent late last month, but the nation's biggest banks didn't move until Wednesday.

Some analysts think the Fed

may soon take even tougher action to keep inflation under control.

"I'm not yet convinced the Fed's tightening has been completed," said Lawrence A. Kudlow, chief economist at Bear, Stearns & Co. "I wouldn't rule out a 7-1/2 per cent federal funds rate in the next 30 days, and therefore the prime rate could climb higher."

Respect

Robert Di Clemente, an economist at Salomon Brothers Inc., said: "We generally expect as the economy continues to expand, there will be further pressures for higher rates with evidence of higher inflation. We'd expect federal funds to trade between 7-3/4 per cent and 8 per cent during the second half of the year and a higher discount rate at some point." The discount rate, or the lending fee the Fed charges banks and other financial institutions, is 6 per cent.

Paul Volcker, the Federal Reserve Board's former chairman, said on Tuesday that the US economy "has a good deal of momentum." But he also said,

"It is equally clear at times you can have a surplus of good news in that respect," adding that the economy is getting "closer to" full capacity. "So there is a question of how much more we can grow" without generating higher inflation, Volcker said at a meeting of the Women's Economic Round Table, where he received an award.

Wednesday's prime rate increase was the first since just before the stock market crash. But unlike last year's series of increases, this rise in the prime "is symptomatic of a stronger economy and higher inflation, not a signal pointing to an economic downturn," said Jones of Aubrey G. Lantson. "Just about every single sector of the economy is pointing up."

And unlike October, which marked the start of three separate prime rate cuts — the most recent Feb. 2 — "there are likely to be further increases in the prime to 9-1/2 per cent," Jones predicted. "An investment manager should stay in cash," because rising rates threaten both stocks and bonds, he said.

How to make money from charity

By Midas

WITH a title like that, you might think I'm about to reveal some appallingly amoral scheme to steal from the blind, but don't worry, I haven't sunk that low.

The idea I'm going to write about today concerns several special trusts which have been set up in such a way as to benefit your favourite charity, as well as your own pocket. The way they work is quite simple, what happens is that your money is invested in strong British companies which pay a slightly higher than average dividend. You sign a covenant giving the income from these investments to the charity, but keeping the capital gains for yourself.

The idea was launched some time ago by the Child Health Research Investment Trust.

Shareholders in the Trust saw their capital grow by 400 per cent, which is good going by anyone's standards.

Meanwhile, the Child Health Research Appeal got £800,000 from the Trust which was wound up last year and is no longer available.

Scheme

Another Investment Trust scheme which was recently wound up was Fidelity's Cystic Fibrosis Investment Trust which ran for five years. In that time the capital value of the £1 shares rose to £5.50 and the charity received an annualised return of 30 per cent.

Turning to schemes which are operating currently, one of the latest ventures is the United Charities Trust, which was originally founded by Mencap in 1982, but was extended to other charities last year. The well-known M&G group handle the

investment management and Barclays Unicorn do all the administration. The United Charities Trust totals around £2 million so far and the shares have risen from 50p in 1982 to 170p today.

Meanwhile, Mencap has already received over £50,000 from the Trust. The other charities that joined last year include the RSPB, The English Speaking Union, Dr Barnardo's Homes and Guide Dogs for the Blind. Shareholders can choose which of these charities they want to receive their income payments.

Fee

Another way of running a charitable trust is the new Target Global Opportunities Fund. This year, that amounts to £100,000, which will help quite a few children in the world.

Henderson's Kidney Patients Association Investment Trust is

another example of a fund that has done very well for both the charity and the investor. Launched in 1983 at £1 per share, the Trust has given £440,000 to the charity, most of which has been spent on dialysis machines. The shares are now worth £2.30 and the Trust will not be wound up for another two years.

Finally, one of the newest trusts is the Children's Medical Charity Investment Trust which was launched last year and is due to run for ten years. The managers, CS Investments, say the Trust is conservatively managed and that they will charge no management fees whatsoever. The aim is to provide an annual income to the charity which will be at least equal to the return on the London 500 Index.

So keep your eyes open, you might just be able to do some good and do yourself a favour at the same time.

UAE chamber chief criticises agreement with EEC

ABU DHABI, May 14. (AP): A business leader yesterday criticised the agreement to be signed next month between the Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Economic Community.

Saeed Al Otaiba, president of the UAE Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, is a long-time critic of European protection measures against Gulf petrochemical exports to EEC member countries.

Al Otaiba is also the father of Manar Saeed Otaiba, the Oil Minister of UAE, one of the six members of the GCC. The others are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

The UAE business leader said in a report published by the local chamber's magazine said "the issue of European restrictions of Gulf petrochemical exports remains a major problem in trade relations between the two groups."

Noting that the agreement drafted in Brussels last month stated that no new customs duties or restrictions should be imposed by either side, Al Otaiba said: "The agreement robs the Gulf states of their right to reciprocate by imposing customs duties or protective restrictions on imports from the EEC."

He added that this was a "right" available for the Gulf states which depend on Europe for about 34 per cent of their total annual imports, estimating this at \$15 billion.

World Business Summary

Ecuador may adopt tougher approach to foreign debt

QUITO, May 14. (Reuter): Ecuador is likely to adopt a tougher approach to foreign debt negotiations under the presidency of social democrat Rodrigo Boria, economic analysts and bankers say. Boria, who beat rival social democrat Abdala Bucaram in presidential elections on Sunday, has said Ecuador cannot afford to service its \$9.2 billion foreign debt under existing terms and will have to renegotiate. Bankers and analysts say they are uncertain that an agreement between Ecuador and its creditor banks initiated last October will be signed. One analyst, who is close to the steering committee of creditor banks, said the committee was unsure when the agreement to reschedule about \$5.1 billion would be finalised. "The steering committee would like to be a lot more sure it (the agreement) will be signed," he told Reuters. "But they haven't given up and the process is going on." Bankers and analysts said they hoped the agreement would be signed in the next three months before Boria takes office from conservative President Leon Febres Cordero on August 10. Boria has said the terms of the agreement were too harsh. In a meeting with foreign journalists on the eve of the election, he said Ecuador's having had to pay 75 per cent of the value of its exports in 1987 in service of its debt and 50 per cent in 1986 was "a barbarity."

Analysts, noting Boria's speech, said they expected Ecuador to harden its stance on debt talks. The president-elect has said the country would not make large debt repayments if that interfered with the country's economic growth and efforts to improve living conditions for the poor. Nonetheless, bankers said that despite Boria's tougher approach to debt they were reassured by his statements that he wants a good relationship with the international financial community. "I thought Boria's statements were quite positive and I feel there is no reason we can't work well together," one banker said.

Trade bill would hold import dealer hostage, says study

WASHINGTON, May 14. (AP): Trade legislation passed by Congress could cost the United States thousands of jobs in the nation's nearly 10,000 imported-auto dealerships, their trade association says. "The massive American imported automobile market is going to be held hostage," said Robert McElwaine, president of the American International Automobile Dealers Association, at a news conference yesterday. The \$40-billion-a-year imported automobile business is a likely target if the United States moves to restrict imports in a trade dispute, McElwaine said. "We are the first target for retaliation," he said. "We are such a huge target. Not only is there a large volume of product, it is such an expensive product, and there is a large amount of money involved." President Ronald Reagan has vowed to veto the trade bill because of a provision requiring advance notice of plant closings. Should Reagan veto the bill, Congress would be in a better position next year to write less damaging trade legislation, McElwaine said. "By next year, according to our calculations, the trade deficit will have been drastically reduced, the export wave will be at full flood, (and) America's prosperous economy will be so export-dependent that few would be willing to risk derailing the economy with an ill-advised trade bill," McElwaine said. McElwaine said the danger to his industry comes from provisions designed to encourage the executive branch to retaliate against nations restricting US access to their markets. "I think it would cause us damage," McElwaine said. Restrictions on imports of South Korea's Hyundai cars alone could potentially cost 15,000 jobs at dealerships, McElwaine said.

Britain formally agrees to contribute to new facility

LONDON, May 14. (AP): The British government yesterday formally agreed to contribute to a new leading facility of the International Monetary Fund. Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson indicated last December that Britain would subsidise one-sixth of the total funding of the so-called enhanced structural adjustment facility. Yesterday, he exchanged letters finalising Britain's contribution with IMF managing director Michel Camdessus. Britain's subsidy is the largest announced by any country, and will amount to £40 million (\$76 million) a year by the mid-1990s, the Treasury said. The United States is the only major IMF member that has not agreed yet to contribute to the facility. A decision by the United States has been delayed by budget talks. The facility was created to provide increased lending to low-income countries undertaking economic adjustment programmes. The loans would be available at an extremely concessional interest rate of 0.5 per cent, and repayment of the principal of a loan would begin 5-1/2 years after its disbursement and end 10 years later.

Reagan urged to sign trade bill

WASHINGTON, May 14. (Reuter): Congressional Democrats presented a controversial trade bill to President Reagan on Wednesday and pleaded with him to sign it into law. The Democrats staged a series of events throughout the day to muster public support for the bill, which is aimed at making US industry more competitive in world markets. They also warned Vice-President George Bush, who has locked up the Republican presidential nomination, that the bill will be a major issue in the presidential campaign this autumn. Although Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and West Germany frequently have been mentioned as targets of the trade bill, the measure would force the President to retaliate against any country with "numerous and pervasive" trade barriers. Reagan has said he will veto the bill because of a provision requiring major firms to give 60 days' notice before closing a major plant or laying off a large number of workers. "We're pleading with the President to sign the bill," House of Representatives Speaker Jim Wright told reporters shortly before a ceremony during which he signed the bill and formally sent it to Reagan. Wright said the document, crafted in three years of negotiations, "provides the tools by which America can be more competitive on world markets... so we can resume our rightful place." The White House made clear Reagan would not reconsider his opposition to the bill.

The mounting US trade deficit has been a driving force behind the legislation, which would target trading partners the United States feels have erected unfair barriers against American goods.

Shanghai Volkswagen to issue bonds

BEIJING, May 14. (AP): The Shanghai Volkswagen Corp. has announced plans to issue 29.5 million yuan (\$8 million) worth of bonds in order to raise funds for modernising its operation, the official Xinhua news agency reported. Xinhua said the Chinese-West Germany joint venture, which produces Santa passenger cars for sale in China, will be the first foreign joint venture in China to issue bonds. In the past few years several Chinese companies have experimented with issuing stocks and bonds. Bonds are a loan that the issuing company or government agrees to repay after a fixed period of time, while stocks are a share in the ownership of a company. Xinhua said Shanghai Volkswagen will issue 19.5 million yuan (\$5.25 million) worth of bonds to individuals at an annual 10.5 per cent interest rate, and the rest to enterprises at a 5.4 per cent interest rate. It said the money will be used to install new West German technology that will enable the plant to produce 60,000 cars and 100,000 engines each year by 1990. The joint venture, which began operation in September 1985, produced about 10,000 cars last year, using 90 per cent imported parts, and plans to produce 15,000 this year. The Chinese and West German partners jointly invested about 190 million yuan (\$51.4 million) in the facility last year, according to Xinhua.

Alshall stock price indices

Kuwait trade volume dips

ALSHALL Index for Kuwait shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 36.76 points with a decrease of 0.34 points from last week's average. Alshall Index for Gulf shareholding companies reached 46.95 points with an increase of 0.16 points for the same period.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 14.13 million shares at a daily average of 2.83 million shares with a decrease of 32 per cent from the previous week daily average of 5.91 million shares. Gulf traded shares reached 19.52 million shares at a daily average of 3.90 million shares with an increase of 20.7 per cent over last week daily average of 3.23 million shares. The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD3.490 million at a daily average of KD0.698 million, a decrease of 62 per cent from last week daily average of KD1.848 million. The value of Gulf traded shares was KD0.498 million at a daily average of KD0.100 million a decrease of 11 per cent from last week daily average of KD0.112 million.

The market resumed its weak performance which was more obvious for Kuwaiti shares. The total traded value declined by about 60 per cent compared with last week average for both Kuwaiti and Gulf shares. This weak performance of the market is partly related to the general weakness of the market and partly to the shift of concentration in trading to the sectors and companies which have lower shares prices.

For Kuwaiti shares the banking sector had the lead at 34.9 per cent of total traded volume — less 46 per cent than last week — of which The Commercial Bank had 32 per cent, The Gulf Bank 18 per cent and Kuwait National Bank 17 per cent. The investment sector came second at 21.4 per cent of total trading of which Kuwait International Investment Company had 39 per cent, Commercial Facilities 22 per cent, IFA 19 per cent.

The services sector came third at 21 per cent of total trading with Kuwait commercial markets ranking first at 77 per cent of this sector, followed by Mobile Telephone Systems at 16 per cent, then Public Warehouse Company at 4 per cent.

For Gulf shares the other companies sector had the lead at 85.6 per cent with Ras Al Khaima White Cement having 56 per cent of the total Gulf shares market, Fujairah Cement 28 per cent and Bahrain International Bank 12 per cent.

Kuwait shareholding companies index

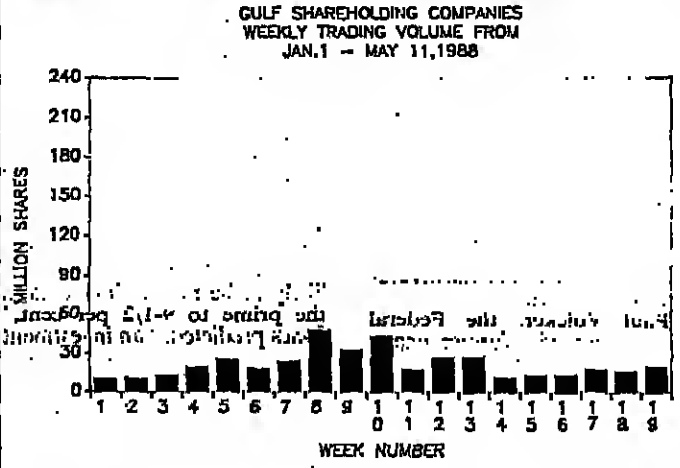
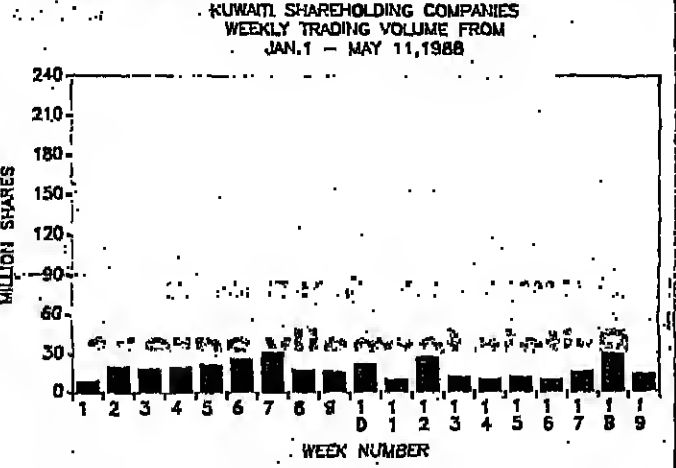
	Wednesday 11/05/88	Wednesday 04/05/88	Change points
Banking Sector			
Kuwait National Bank	87.25	87.25	—
The Gulf Bank	28.59	28.17	0.41
The Commercial Bank	21.25	21.25	—
Al Ahli Bank	27.39	27.39	—
Bank of Kuwait & M. East	27.19	26.75	0.44
Kuwait R. Estate Bank	28.97	29.37	-0.40
Burgan Bank	23.78	23.78	—
Kuwait Finance House	61.23	61.23	—
Sector Index	38.86	38.77	0.09
Investment Sector			
Kuwait Investment Co.	30.49	36.73	-6.24
Kuwait Int. Invest. Co.	27.15	27.15	—
Inv. Pearl Kuwait	84.13	82.54	1.59

IFA	76.47	76.47	—
Commercial Facilities	121.25	111.25	10.00
Sector Index	40.99	43.32	-2.33
Insurance Sector			
Kuwait Insurance Co.	37.51	38.05	-0.54
Gulf Insurance Co.	28.46	28.46	—
Al Ahlia Insurance Co.	45.98	45.98	—
Warba Insurance Co.	78.18	71.31	6.87
Sector Index	38.71	38.62	0.09
Real Estate Sector			
Kuwait Real Estate	28.80	30.59	-1.78
United Realty	12.96	13.18	-0.22
National Real Estate	40.21	45.39	-5.18
Sector Index	21.58	22.99	-1.41
Industrial Sector			
Kuwait Cement Co.	16.22	16.22	—
Refrigeration Indust.	86.78	81.56	5.23
Gulf Cables	102.84	102.84	—
Kuwait Pharmaceutical	83.56	82.67	0.89
Sector Index	83.61	83.24	0.37
Services Sector			
Kuwait Computer Co.	203.04	203.04	—
Kuwait Cinema Co.	9.04	9.04	—
Public Warehouseing Co.	68.69	72.73	-4.04
Kuwait Comm. Markets Co.	39.95	39.95	—
Mobile Telephone Syst.	352.38	347.62	4.76
Sector Index	63.15	63.50	-0.35
Food Sector			
Livestock Trad. & Transp.	44.75	45.16	-0.41
United Fisheries	10.34	10.34	—
Kuwait United Poultry	87.28	87.28	—
Kuwait Food Co.	65.52	65.52	—
Sector Index	41.10	41.25	-0.15
Overall Index	36.76	37.11	-0.34

Gulf shareholding companies index

	Wednesday 11/05/88	Wednesday 04/05/88	Change points
Financial Companies			
First Gulf Bank	163.16	163.16	—
United Gulf Bank	34.48	34.48	—
Bahrain Internat. Bank	91.03	91.03	—
Bahrain M. East Bank	80.68	80.68	—
Gulf Investments Co.	61.03	61.03	—
Coast Int. & Dev. Co.	74.29	75.24	-0.95
Bahrain Kuwait Inv. Gro.	65.71	65.71	—
Arabian Gen. Inv. (Shuaa)	56.06	56.82	-0.76
Sector Index	61.71	61.87	-0.17
Other Companies			
Gulf Cement (fully paid)	12.83	12.40	0.43
Sharjah Cement	10.50	10.50	—
Fujairah Cement	9.87	9.87	—
Ras Al Khaima W. Cement	28.33	25.56	2.78
Gulf Medical Projects	18.21	18.21	—
Sector Index	16.02	15.18	0.83
Overall Index	46.95	46.80	0.16

Base Period 31/12/1983.



KD deposit rates ease in quiet trading

MOST Kuwaiti dinar deposit rates eased yesterday in quiet trading as bid/offer interest waned ahead of holidays next week.

Local dealing rooms will close from Monday or Tuesday through Friday for Eid Al Fitr holiday marking the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Banks sought funds only for the next two days, with overnight business at Thursday's 10 per cent and tomorrow-next at nine and 8 1/2 per cent.

Rates firmed sharply on Thursday after the Central Bank announced an unexpected issue of three-month treasury bills for KD 100 million dated May 21.

Spot-next funds maturing on that date were quoted at seven, six per cent but there were few or no bids.

The fixed periods were up to 1/4 point below Thursday's at 6-3/4, 1/2 per cent for the one-month, 6-3/4, 3/8 per cent for the two-month and three-month and 6-5/8, 1/8 per cent for the six through 12-month.

The Central Bank dinar exchange rate was slightly firmer at 0.27373/83 to the dollar from 0.27384/94 at Thursday's close, while commercial banks quoted spot rates of around 0.27375/85.

Meanwhile, the Saudi Interbank deposit market was quiet and rates steady yesterday, the last day of trade before the start of a week-long banking holiday for Eid Al Fitr.

"Most banks squared their positions for over the holidays a few days ago," said one dealer, "I didn't even open my books today."

Trade fair to focus on non-oil export products

LAGOS, May 14, (Opecna): The Lagos state trade fair which is to open here next Friday will focus on Nigeria's non-oil export products, according to State Commissioner for Commerce and Industry, Dr. Babatunde St. Matthew-Daniel.

He told newsmen that the week-long fair would feature tourism, agriculture and industrial services and would be attended by immigration, hotel and taxi company representatives who had direct contact with tourists.

The commissioner pointed out that great potential for foreign exchange generation in the country remained untapped.

Around 100 participants had registered for the fair while a further 200 had shown an interest in attending, he added.

Kuwait doubles urea production

KUWAIT urea production for fiscal 1986-87 at 804,000 tonnes was 102 per cent in excess of installed capacity and 117 per cent higher than in 1985-86.

According to the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's 1986-87 report, the company also produced 683,000 tonnes of ammonia during the period, recording an increase of 243,000 tonnes over the earlier year.

The report said a remarkable improvement occurred in urea prices in the second half of the year, while the world market for nitrogenous fertilisers remained unstable through the first half of the year.

Urea sales increased by 140,000 tonnes to 820,000 tonnes and those of ammonia reached 187,000 tonnes from 35,000 tonnes a year earlier.

Sulphuric acid sales fell from 3,800 tonnes to 3,100 tonnes.

KUWAIT

	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
BANK SECTOR						
NATIONAL BANK	0.860	0.860	0.860	0.860	20000	2
GULF BANK	0.345	—	—	—	—	—
COMMERCIAL BK	0.264	—	—	—	—	—
ALHLI BANK	0.285	0.285	0.285	0.285	170000	5
B.K.M.E.	0.310	—	—	—	—	—
K.R.E.B.	0.365	—	—	—	—	—
BURGAN BANK	0.240	—	—	—	—	—
K.F.HOUSE	0.405	0.405	0.405	0.405	70000	3
INVESTMENT SECTOR						
KIT INV. CO.	0.166	—	—	—	—	—
K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210	—	—	—	—	—
K.I.I.C.	0.158	0.160	0.160	0.160	40000	2
CON.FACILITIES	0.485	—	—	—	—	—
AMLIAN INV.	0.000	—	—	—	—	—
I.F.A.	0.104	—	—	—	—	—
INV. PEARL KWT	0.106	—	—	—	—	—
INSURANCE SECTOR						
KIT INSURANCE	0.690	—	—	—	—	—
GULF INSURANCE	0.370	—	—	—	—	—
AMLIAN INS. CO.	0.520	—	—	—	—	—
WARBA INS. CO.	0.455	—	—	—	—	—
REAL EST SECTOR						
KIT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.226	—	—	—	—	—
UNI R.E.S.T. CO.	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	220000	4
NAT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.202	—	—	—	—	—
SALHIAN R.E.	0.075	—	—	—	—	—
KIT PROJECTS	0.081	—	—	—	—	—
KIT R.E.I. CON	0.000	—	—	—	—	—
INDUSTRY SECTOR						
NAT IND. CO.	0.510	—	—	—	—	—
KIT M.P. IND.	0.280	—	—	—	—	—
KIT CEMENT CO.	0.238	—	—	—	—	—
REF. IND. CO.	0.415	—	—	—	—	—
H.A.M.T.CO.	0.000	—	—	—	—	—
GULF CABLE	1.000	—	—	—	—	—
K.P.W. IND. CO.	0.188	—	—	—	—	—
CONT.MARINE	0.350	—	—	—	—	—
K.SH.REP.CO.	0.042	—	—	—	—	—
SERVICES SECTOR						
OVERLAND TRANS	0.081	—	—	—	—	—
K.N.C.CO.	0.190	—	—	—	—	—
KIT HOTELS CO.	0.174	—	—	—	—	—
P.WAREHOUSING	0.134	—	—	—	—	—
CON.WET.CHIP	0.020	—	—	—	—	—
MOBILE TELE.	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.370	230000	6
KIT COMPUTER	0.188	—	—	—	—	—
FOOD SECTOR						
LIVESTOCK T.T.	0.220	—	—	—	—	—
UNITO FISHERIES	0.132	—	—	—	—	—
UNITO POLTRY	0.238	—	—	—	—	—
KIT FOODS	0.285	—	—	—	—	—
AGRI. FOOD PRO.	0.150	—	—	—	—	—
NON-KIT SECTOR						
BIN. INTER. BK	0.066	—	—	—	—	—
BIN. M.EAST. BK	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	400000	4
BIN. GULF BK	0.000	—	—	—	—	—
COAST INVEST.	0.078	—	—	—	—	—
A.G. INV. CORP	0.037	—	—	—	—	—
FIRST. GULF BK	0.820	—	—	—	—	—
K.B.K.L.G.	0.085	—	—	—	—	—

	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL						
FINANCIAL SECTOR						
PEARL INV. CO.	0.098	—	—	—	—	—
GULF INV. CO.	0.041	—	—	—	—	—
GULF INTL. INS.	0.009	—	—	—	—	—
ARAB INT. CO.	0.065	—	—	—	—	—
SHARJAH INS.	0.000	—	—	—	—	—
GULF UNION INS.	0.055	—	—	—	—	—
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR						
B-GULF MEDICAL	0.016	—	—	—	—	—
C.R.K. WHITE CMT	0.025	—	—	—	—	—
O-AJMAN CEMENT	0.007	—	—	—	—	—
E-FUJAIRAH CMT	0.007	—	—	—	—	—
F-SHARJAH CEMENT	0.010	—	—	—	—	—
K.B.K. CEMENT	0.015	—	—	—	—	—
N-LAW GATMAN	0.019	—	—	—	—	—

India plays a major role in world banking

BRUSSELS, May 14: India is an important actor on the world stage in economic terms? One index of its relative importance is the number of overseas branches of Indian banks — not in major financial centres such as London but in, say, Brussels.

India is represented in Brussels by the Bank of India, which has a branch in the city since 1985. Alongside those of Japanese, American and Arab banks, the bank in fact opened its branch office here long before many of its foreign competitors according to Economic Times.

Belgium itself does not generate much business for foreign banks; even its own banks are busy expanding abroad. The Bank of Baroda's branch office has been active, therefore, in raising funds for borrowers in India and for NRI, whether based in London or elsewhere.

Early this year it raised just under \$11 million to finance the purchase by an Indian firm of an oil-shore oil rig. Some 15 months ago it raised \$15 million for another Indian customer, to pay for a jack-up rig for oil exploration.

Although the Brussels branch also lends in Ecu — the European Currency Unit — Indian borrowers are uninterested in the ECU's "currency," according to V.R. Nair, manager of the Brussels branch. He attributes their indifference to the weakness of the US dollar and the fact that no European firms invoice their overseas buyers in Ecu.

The bank of Baroda is not the only Indian bank represented in Belgium: the State Bank of India has a branch in Antwerp. But the two seem to complement each other, with the State Bank financing the diamond trade and the Bank of Baroda the off-shore business.

The activities financed by the latter for its Indian and NRI customers include the purchase of ships, oil exploration, joint ventures abroad, hotel construction, etc.

After a 0.4 per cent increase in March, capital equipment prices rose only 0.2 per cent in April. One worrying aspect of the report was a broad-based increase in prices of goods at the intermediate stage of processing, which rose 0.8 per cent in April following a 0.6 per cent gain in March.

The increase was led by metals, chemicals and paper products, industries that are operating close to full capacity to meet strong domestic demand and a strong influx of foreign orders.

Much of the energy increase was due to a 4.3 per cent rise in natural gas prices, which had fallen in five of the six previous months.

Home heating oil prices rose 5.2 per cent but were still only 1.1 per cent higher than in April 1987. Gasoline prices rose 0.7 per cent after climbing 1.5 per cent in March.

Prices of food and capital equipment also advanced last month but at a slower pace than in March, the government said.

Food prices rose 0.4 per cent after a 0.7 per cent March increase but were only 0.9 per cent higher than a year earlier, the Labour Department said.

Prices of eggs, fresh fruit and fish all fell in April, slowing down the overall rate of increase in food prices.

Inflation under control

Morocco set for high 1988 growth

RABAT, May 14, (Reuters): Morocco, which has witnessed a dramatic turnaround in its economic fortunes over the last few years, can look forward to economic growth this year of five per cent, Central Bank Governor Ahmed Bennani told Reuters.

Detailing the fruits of a combined austerity and economic liberalisation package, Bennani maintained Morocco had turned the tide on a difficult period, when it was forced to renegotiate repayments on a soaring foreign debt.

Low In a wide-ranging interview, he said the country was now meeting all its targets for repaying total loans of around \$17 billion.

"We have serviced all our debts without interruption and without receiving any fresh

moody," he said.

In addition, he said inflation was low and under control at around four per cent, exports were increasing despite tougher competition from overseas, and private investment was growing.

Buffeted by a steep decline in the price of phosphate, the country's main export, poor harvests, and by a rise in both the price of oil and world interest rates, Morocco turned in 1983 to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for help.

System By 1986, it had also completed negotiations with private banks and embarked on a dual policy of internal economic reform and dismantling trade barriers as a spur to exports.

Salaries of government workers were frozen, state subsidies cut back, and an out-of-date tax

system recast on a Western European model. An important licensing system was abandoned and customs duties reduced.

"Morocco is a country which took advantage of its problems to set up a modern fiscal system," Bennani said.

Loan He said Morocco recorded a modest surplus in its current account in 1987 of just over \$12 million — the first surplus since the 1970s — and predicted it would be substantially higher this year.

Bennani, who took

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION For Rent

MISHRAF, villa consisting of 6 bedrooms, hall, saloon, fully carpeted including a garden, in excellent location. Tel. 2544689, 2-6 pm.

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KUWAIT City, Sharq, single room in a CAC flat for 2 Indian bachelors to share with an Indian family. Rent KD95 with water and electricity. Tel. 2457639.

(AT2-42273-3)

KUWAIT City, behind the Catholic Church, accommodation in a room for one person, to share with a Goan family. Tel. 2450281-2, 9.30 am - 3 pm.

(AT2-M-TM-1)

SALWA, House 196, Block 7, behind Iran Shop. One big room with kitchen, water and electricity for a family/bachelors, to share with an Indian family. Rent KD50. Tel. 5611243.

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KUWAIT City, near Hilton Hotel. Furnished accommodation for bachelors. Tel. Sam. 2466918, 2466919, 8 am - 2 pm.

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FOR SALE

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MERCEDES 280S 1978, fully automatic, green metallic with AC, in very good condition, KD950. Tel. 5385094, 12-3 pm.

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FIAT Uno, model 1987, turbo i.e. 1300 cc, 8000 kms. As good as new, electric powered windows, stereo, manual gear, dark grey metallic. Best offer. Tel. 4837623, 8 am - 2 pm.

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MITSUBISHI Galant GLS '87, fully automatic with overdrive, white, 2000cc, in excellent condition. KD350 cash onco. and 41 x KD70 installments. Tel. Dias, 5814534.

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(AT1-42259-2)

DAIHATSU 11/87 Rocky Gulf Stream, luxury version, 18,000 kms. Owner leaving Kuwait. Must sell. Like new. KD2,800 cash. Tel. 2417007 ext. 51, 9 am - 2 pm.

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VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1980, blue motor end exterior, 73,000 kms, stick shift with AC, October registration, second owner. Like new, KD500 onco. Tel. Smith, 3901546 ext. 32, 5-6 pm.

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SUZUKI, Swift 1985, automatic, 12,000 kms with AC, KD1,200. Tel. Mr. Nagy, 4814077, 4811753, 9 am - 4 pm.

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TOYOTA Crown 81, white, fully automatic, in excellent condition. KD875. Tel. 5655061, after 4 pm.

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FIAT 131 Super Mirafiori, model 82, in excellent condition. KD850. Tel. 5626278, after 4 pm.

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NISSAN Cherry, 1983, 2 tone brown, in good condition. KD350. Tel. 5385094, 12-3 pm.

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TOYOTA Cressida, 1983, AC, automatic, light blue, 82,000 kms, in good condition. Highest offer. Tel. 4885867.

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Miscellaneous

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BASEBALL
ROUNDUPHouston
outclass
Chicago

NEW YORK, May 14, (AP)— Nolan Ryan pitched a seven-hitter for his first complete game in more than two years, and Glenn Davis drove in four runs, leading the Houston Astros to an 8-2 victory over the Chicago Cubs last night.

Davis got two of his RBI with a home run in Houston's four-run eighth inning.

Cardinals 7, Braves 5
Terry Pendleton had three hits and drove in two runs, and Jose DeLeon struck out 10 batters in 8 2-3 innings as the St. Louis Cardinals rolled to a 7-5 victory over the Atlanta Braves.

DeLeon allowed seven hits, retiring the first nine men he faced in becoming the first Cardinals pitcher to win three games. Ken Deway got the last out in Atlanta's three-run ninth, earning his first save.

Pirates 6, Reds 5
Barry Bonds opened his second straight game with a homer, then scored from first base on two Cincinnati errors and Jose Lind's sacrifice hunt in the ninth as the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Reds 6-5.

Bonds singled for his third hit of the game to greet Roli Murphy, 0-3, the Reds' third pitcher. **Padres 7, Expos 1**

Carmelo Martinez had three hits, including a run-scoring double and a two-run homer, leading San Diego to a 7-1 victory over the Montreal Expos, snapping the Padres' five-game losing streak.

Jimmy Jones pitched a five-hitter, and Shane Mack had a two-run single to cap a three-run Padres sixth. Jones, 3-4, ended a personal three-game losing streak by going the distance for the first time this year, with three walks and five strikeouts.

Phillies 2, Dodgers 1
Kevin Gross allowed six hits in eight innings, and Juan Samuel snapped a scoreless tie with a solo homer in the fourth inning as the Philadelphia Phillies edged the Los Angeles Dodgers 2-1.

Gross also singled in a fifth-inning run that put Philadelphia ahead 2-0.

Giants 3, Mets 2
Jose Uribe's two-out double drove in Bob Melvin with the go-ahead run to cap a two-out rally in the seventh inning, lifting the San Francisco Giants to a 3-2 victory over the New York Mets.

Right-hander Kelly Downs won his first game of the year and lowered his era to 2.51 with a three-hitter. Both of the Mets runs were unearned.

Orioles 4, Athletics 1
Eddie Murray and Fred Lynn hit consecutive two-out home runs in the fourth inning and the Baltimore Orioles fanned Oakland ace Dave Stewart his first loss after eight consecutive victories by defeating the Athletics 4-1 last night.

The Orioles won for only the fifth time in 34 games this season against the team with the best record in the American League and the winningest pitcher in baseball.

Angels 5, Yankees 4
Brian Downing hit a two-out, two-run homer in the ninth inning, his first ever at Yankee stadium. Reliever Ceciliano Buente retired the first two batters in the ninth but hit pinch hitter George Hendrick with a pitch.

Downing then hooked a high fly ball just inside the left-field foul pole at the 318-foot mark.

Willie Fraser, 3-3, got the victory with two innings of scoreless relief and Dewayne Bruce pitched a perfect ninth for his third save.

Tigers 7, Twins 0
Luis Salazar, Alan Trammell and Ray Knight homered in support of Doyle Alexander's seven-hit pitching. Alexander struck out six and walked one in handing the world champion Twins their 11th setback in 14 road games.

Salazar, who was 4-for-4, hit his fourth home run of the season in the first inning off Allan Anderson. Salazar started Detroit's three-run fourth with a single and Trammell followed with his fifth homer. With two out, Knight hit his first homer of the year.

Indians 4, Brewers 3
Cory Snyder greeted Milwaukee relief ace Dan Plesac with a three-run homer with two out in the eighth inning, giving the victory to Greg Swindell.

Results National League

Pittsburgh 6 Cincinnati 5
Houston 8 Chicago 2
St. Louis 7 Atlanta 5
Philadelphia 6 Los Angeles 1
San Diego 7 Montreal 1
San Francisco 3 New York 2

American League

California 5 New York 4
Boston 5 Seattle 8
Detroit 7 Minnesota 0
Baltimore 4 Oakland 1
Chicago 4 Toronto 3
Cleveland 4 Milwaukee 1
Texas 2 Kansas City 1

NEW WORLD CHAMPION HAPPY WITH NEW RULES

Jahangir crushes Jansher for title

AMSTERDAM, May 14, (Reuters) — Pakistan's Jahangir Khan regained the world squash title yesterday when he beat compatriot and defending champion Jansher Khan 9-6 9-2 9-2.

Jahangir, ranked two in the world, took the title from the 19-year old champion with some spectacular squash in a gruelling 80-minute match.

The 24-year-old Jahangir, who held the title for five consecutive years before losing it to New Zealander Ross Norman in 1986, was in almost faultless form, going for his shots aggressively.

Close
He delighted the 2,000 crowd with an array of deft volleys and drop shots close to the tin.

Booyed by a recent victory in the British Open, Jahangir looked hungrier than Jansher, who won the title for the first time last year.

Jansher played careful squash, waiting for his older compatriot to make mistakes. Jahangir rarely did.

Both players started the match cautiously, drawing out the first rally to more than six minutes and over 300 shots.

But Jahangir forced the pace, hitting the ball harder and trying to score winners. The tactic paid off and he took the first game in 40 minutes.

Jansher, who has only been in top professional squash for two years, did not seem to have the



Jahangir (left) overjoyed Jansher

experience to change his approach.

Jahangir, who sometimes let his aggression spill over to arguments with the referee, went

to take the second game 9-2. He regularly displayed a superb sliced drop volley which outfoxed the 19-year-old.

Jansher looked dispirited in

the third game and it was only a matter of time before Jahangir took the game and secured the win.

At the end, a delighted Jahangir raised both hands in the air in triumph marking the end of two hard years plagued by injury.

After picking up the \$12,000 prize money and rushing a quick phone call to his family in Britain he was modest about the win.

"I don't know whether I'm world number one now. That is up to you pressman to decide," he said. "But I haven't played so well for a long time."

Jansher said he was not too disappointed about the defeat. "I'm still world number one," he said.

Meanwhile Jahangir believes sweeping rule changes will hardly affect his tactics when he defends his title next year.

Top professional players decided this week to change the game's scoring system, service rules and one aspect of the court layout in a bid to make the sport more attractive to spectators.

The changes, some of the most revolutionary in the game's history, were decided on at a meeting of the International Squash Players Association (ISPA).

ISPA officials said the rules were likely to be in force for most Grand Prix events and the next year's World Open championships.

Jahangir said, "I'm happy to

see things change. It's a great opportunity for us to make squash more exciting."

"I think the public will like it and I'm not worried about it changing my game at all," he said.

ISPA wants bigger crowds, more television coverage and bigger prize money.

In the last five years new luminous balls, worth \$300 each, have helped make the game easier to follow on television and transparent walled courts have allowed more people to watch the sport at stadiums.

Five years ago just 150 people watched the world championships. This week's event attracted regular crowds of 2,000 ISPA officials said.

"The ball and transparent walls have brought this game up to date. Now we want these changes to get more people watching. It's make or break time for the sport," ISPA chairman Stuart Davenport said.

The ISPA have scrapped a rule allowing only a player with service to score points. Either player will score from a rally.

The tin will be lowered by five centimetres (two inches) and a player will be only allowed one attempt at a service.

"The lower tin will make the court seem bigger and give players the chance to attack more. These players are so fit nowadays we need to put them under more pressure."



Johnson walks barefoot after the race. (Reuters wirephoto)

Johnson fails to finish 100m race in Tokyo

TOKYO, May 14, (Reuters) — World champion Ben Johnson of Canada suffered another injury setback in his bid to win the 100 metres race here yesterday.

Johnson, who cut short his indoor season in February because of an injury to his left thigh, stopped running at about the 40-metre point in his first outdoor sprint of the year.

"He felt a slight strain in his left leg so he backed off right away," said coach Charlie Francis.

Injury
Francis said it was a hamstring injury but he eased up "as quickly as possible and that's the most important thing in preventing serious injury."

He added the extent of the injury would not be known for 24 hours.

Johnson, who set a world record of 9.83 seconds in becoming 100-metre world champion in Rome last September, made no comment after the race, which was won by American Harry Krulce in 10.32 seconds. Japan's Hiroki Fuwa was second in 10.48.

The day's most exciting event was the men's 10,000 metres in which Boniface Merande beat fellow-Kenyan Moses Tanui by less than half a second.

Merande clocked a fast 27 minutes 40.36 seconds to Tanui's 27:40.59. Portugal's Dionisio Castro was third in 27:42.84.

Evelyn Ashford of the United States, Olympic champion and world record holder, won the women's 100 metres in 11.13 seconds.

Ashford was delighted with her time. "I never run fast at this particular track and to run that time here means that I'm going to be ready for the Olympic trials in July," she said.

Chance
"The McLarens are in a different world," he said yesterday. "And if I cannot get on the front row in my car here then I really have no chance at all in the race."

"I set my mind on Thursday by driving right on the limit. I think I got the best I could from the car but we are obviously lacking power compared to the McLaren-Hondas."

"It is very frustrating to have a good car which is quick through the corners but cannot compete when it gets blown off on the straight."

"If we are not on the front row here then we won't be anywhere. I have to accept that. It's not nice, when you have been winning, to realise that you cannot win. But at least I am the quickest of the normally aspirated."

Prince
"Sportsman Company" recently organised a "Prince" promotional tour of Kuwait. Various clinics were staged at the leading tennis clubs which included Holiday Inn, Regency Palace, SAS, Yarmouk and Qadisiya. The clinics were conducted by "Prince" touring professional Alex Ramirez, a former Mexican junior Davis Cup player. Above: Alex with Patrick Diegan, one of three professionals chosen to represent Prince in Kuwait, and top Holiday Inn players.

Boxall goes four strokes clear

SANTANDER, Spain, May 14, (Reuters) — Britain's Richard Boxall went within a birdie of breaking a 36-year-old European scoring record as he took a four-stroke lead in the Spanish Open golf championship yesterday.

Boxall, seeking his first tour win, added a 64 to his opening 63 for a 13-under-par 127 total and a handsome halfway advantage over compatriot Mark James, who returned a 68.

Boxall arrived at the 18th looking for his eighth birdie in 10 holes to better the record halfway total of 126 set by Briton Tom Haliburton in a tournament at Worthing, England, in 1952.

But he bunkered his approach

and was forced to card a bogey, although he still used only 30 strokes to cover the last nine holes — one shot more than he took to complete the back nine on Thursday.

Best
Boxall, who sank puts of 20 and 25 feet and a 20-foot chip, said: "I didn't know about the record — I was just trying to shoot 62 to win a gold watch for the best round of the week."

"I got a new set of irons before the event and it's the first time I've led at halfway. I'll go for it tomorrow and try for as many birdies as possible."

Australian Mike Clayton, who partnered Boxall and had a hole-in-one during the first round, shot a 65 to join Ireland's Christy O'Connor Junior (66) and Britons Ken Brown (66), Colin Montgomerie (64) and David Williams (66) on 133.

Argentina's Luis Carbonetti was home in 30 for a 65 and was level on 135 with Frenchman Michel Tapia, who shot 69, and title holder and British Open champion Nick Faldo, round in 67.

But Welshman Ian Woosnam, last year's European number one, missed the cut for the fifth successive time after shooting a 72 for a one-too-many 142.

Severiano Ballesteros, playing on his home course, improved with a 67 yesterday but was only one-under-par on 139 at halfway.

The Spaniard, who has not won a major title since the 1984 British Open, said he was "seriously considering" returning to the US Tour next year.

Accepts
"Every round something seems to go wrong for me," he said. "Conditions are better in America."

If Ballesteros accepts his US card he would have to play a minimum 15 events in the US, where he has played part time since 1985.

Manell
Peering out at the rain clouds which have shrouded Monte Carlo's twisting street circuit for the last two days, Mansell admitted the normally aspirated challengers had little hope of heating the turbo-powered McLarens in tomorrow's Monaco Grand Prix.

Mansell, whose Williams team switched to normally aspirated cars ahead of their main rivals in preparation for next year's ban on turbo power, added he had virtually no chance of improving on his third position on the provisional grid in today's final practice.

Chance
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Title fight
JAKARTA, Indonesia, May 14, (AP) — Hengky Gun of Indonesia will fight Orient and Pacific Boxing Federation super featherweight champion Geron Poras of the Philippines in a 12-round title bout June 5, a boxing official said today.

Promotor Setiadi Laksono said Gun, a former junior World Boxing Council champion, will earn \$200 and Poras \$12,000 from the fight in the east Java capital of Surabaya.

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With 580.38 points, Louganis has also withdrawn from a dual meet with China scheduled for later this month.

"It's something I have to do now to ensure it will get better," Louganis said. "I am undergoing treatment and have had one cortisone shot."

"It's just a matter of resting it. If I had waited any longer it would have been more serious," he said.

BOCA RATON, Fla., May 14, (Reuters) — American Greg Louganis, diving with a swollen left wrist, yesterday won the men's one-meter springboard title at the Boca Raton International Diving Championships.

The double Olympic gold medalist is suffering from a ganglion cyst (a build-up of tissue) on his left wrist that forced him to withdraw from the 10-metre platform competition.

But Louganis, competing with the wrist heavily bandaged, displayed near perfect form in successfully defending his one-meter title.

Louganis won with a score of 659.25 points for 11 dives. Mexico's Jose Rocha, the US collegiate champion in one and three-metre springboard, was second with 594.12 points.

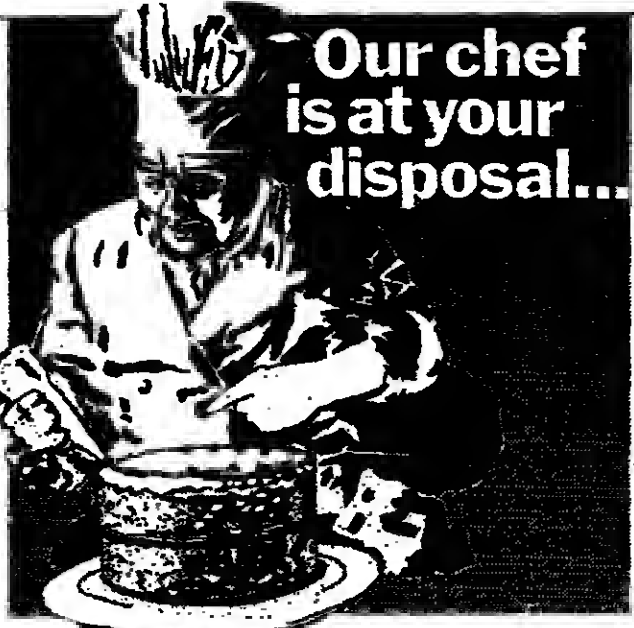
Edwin Jongmans of the Netherlands tallied 591.66 for third place, while American Mark Bradshaw was a close fourth

TEACHERS REQUIRED

To teach mathematics and computers to children and teenagers on a summer programme mid-June to mid-August. A good knowledge of English is an advantage. Send CV with contact telephone number to Summer School Director, P O Box 6304, 22073 Salmiyah, Kuwait.



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